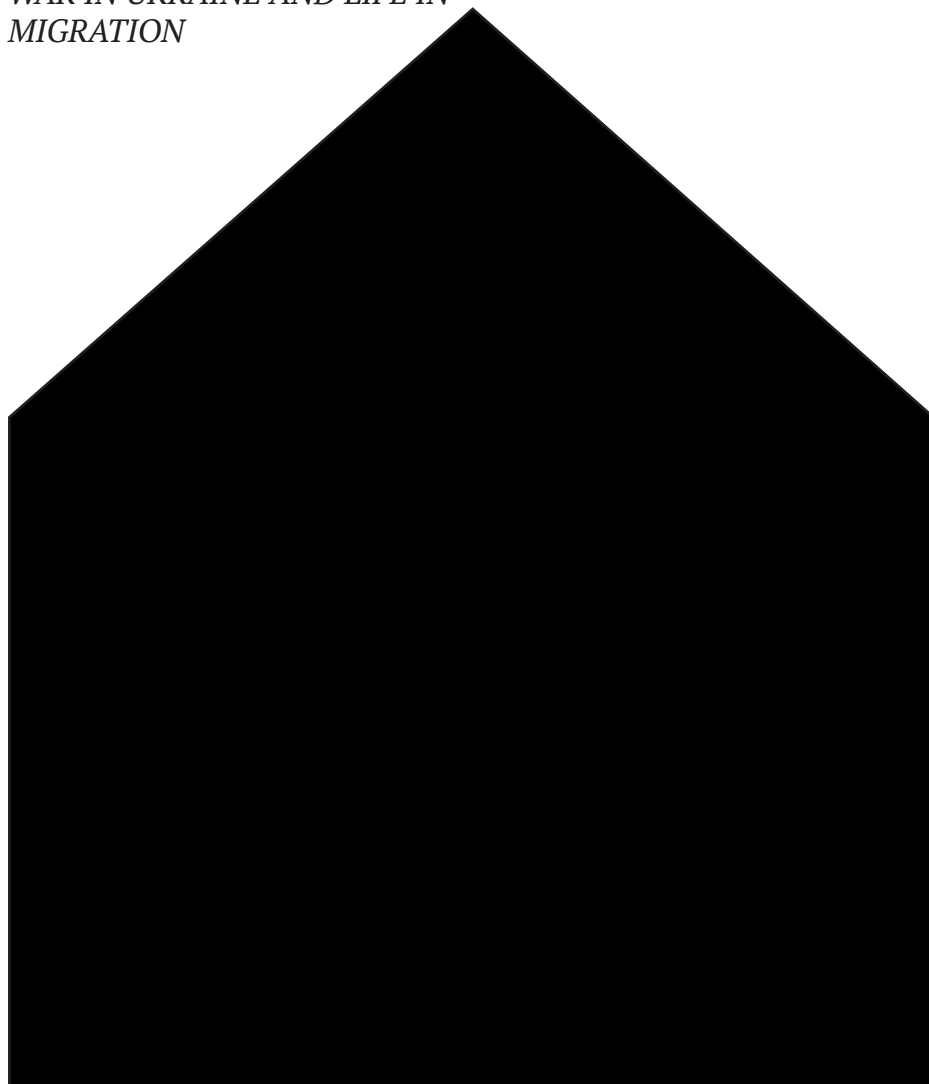


ON BOTH SIDES:

*AN EXHIBITION/REFLECTION ON
WAR IN UKRAINE AND LIFE IN
MIGRATION*



Information brochure

Organizers

Thanks to:

Buren van de Abdij
www.burenvandeabdij.be

Historische huizen Gent
www.historischehuizen.stad.gent

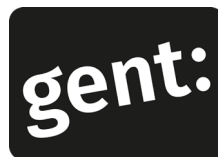
Fonds Pascal Decroos
www.fondspascaldecroos.org

ADC Memorial
www.adcmemorial.org

The artists.

Geert Willems for helping to set up the exhibition.

Musician Maria Chunina for the music during the opening.



Introduction

Onbekend is onbemind.

Haast u langzaam, doe wel en zie niet om, of toch?

Kunst kan de wereld redden, schoonheid ontroert.

De uitgelezen plek om verstilling te herbergen, een abdij.

Buren die geven en ontvangen.

Ze ontvangen jonge kunstenaars die van ver komen en hier hun werk tonen.

Vertraging, kijken, luisteren, ervaren, bezinnen, stilte.

Hurry slowly, do right and don't look back, or do look back?

Art can save the world, beauty is moving.

Exquisite place to host stillness, an abbey.

Neighbours who give and receive.

They welcome young artists
who come from far and show their work here.

Slowing down, watching, listening,
experiencing, contemplating, silence.

Поспішайте повільно, робіть правильно і нікого не бійтеся.

Мистецтво може врятувати світ, краса зворушує.

Вишукане місце для тиші, абатство.

Сусіди, які дають і приймають.

Вони вітають молодих художників, які приїжджають здалеку
і показують тут свої роботи.

Сповільнення, спостереження, слухання, переживання,
споглядання, тиша.

Разом.

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Agenda

13/10/2023 - 18u **Opening exhibition**

14/10/2023 - 15u **Vareniki stories, kitchen table discussion among Ukrainians and other Ghentians.**



“Vareniki” are a popular Ukrainian dish of dough balls with vegetables and meat. We prepared those on Oct. 14, together with Ukrainians and Belgians, at a large table at Macharius Herberg.

18/10/2023 - 20u **A conversation: Perspectives on Ukraine, a country at war.**




As part of Ukrainian week by the de Buren, a project where de Buren look over the wall to the larger world, this night we are hosting a conversation around the situation in Ukraine.

John Vandaele has a conversation with a tree doctor active in Ukraine, Ukrainian wound specialist from Jan-Palfijn, a journalist and possibly a few more surprise guests about the the difficult road Ukraine has ahead.

22/10/2023 - 17u **Finissage**

Grigory Atanov



I was born in Donbass, in the east of Ukraine. Since my early childhood war of armies, war with my peers, war with the system and war with myself has been dragging through my life.

Ten months ago I managed to miraculously leave the occupied territory, hoping to find a better life.

Did I find it?

-I guess so... But what am I supposed to do with it?

“I wanted to show that man can restore his ties to life by renewing the foundations on which his soul rests...”

- Andrei Tarkovsky

ADC Memorial produced a short animation that depicts my journey from Donbass to Belgium.

The journey was risky, and I had to leave my family and home behind.

Fortunately, I was able to reunite with my sister in Ghent. Where I've lived the past ten months.

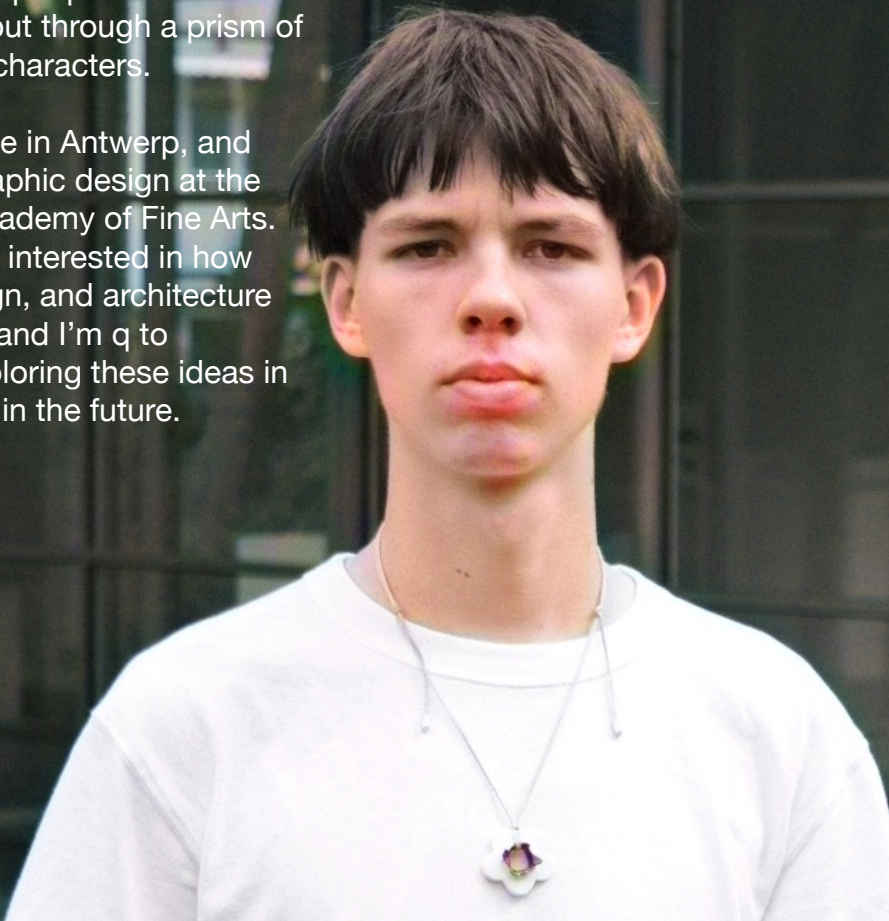


Kyrylo Nechytailo

I grew up in Ukraine, in Kharkiv. My journey as an artist began a few years ago when I went to architecture school in Kharkiv. Studying architecture taught me how to understand spaces and see how people interact with them.

When full-scale war in Ukraine started, I decided to move to Belgium. I continued my architecture path there, but I also started thinking a lot about the idea of home and what happens when people have to leave their homes because of war or other reasons. This led me to the idea of creating a book that tells the stories of people who had to leave their homes, but through a prism of fictional characters.

Now, I live in Antwerp, and study graphic design at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts. I'm really interested in how art, design, and architecture connect and I'm going to keep exploring these ideas in my work in the future.



space and loneliness

In this book I reflect on the topic of migration. The story is about life after emigration of the bear Mikhail which is a kind of collective image of a refugee and the interpretation of my current feeling of self.

Everyday struggles in the same space show us how we get exhausted and due to this, space gets colder for us. This short story gives us a chance to feel basic feelings of nostalgia and loneliness.

Yelyzaveta Atanova

I was born in Donbas, Ukraine. My childhood was marked by the onset of the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) in eastern Ukraine, which left an indelible mark on my life and art. Despite challenging times, I cultivated my artistic talent, by starting to draw at a young age.

After the situation stabilized in the region, I decided to dedicate myself to art and environmental design. I enrolled in the Kharkiv State Academy of Design and Arts, where I delved deeper into the world of creativity.

However, fate had other trials in store. War returned with renewed force and Ukraine was engulfed in a wave of events that compelled me to part from my family and relocate to Belgium in search of safety and new opportunities.

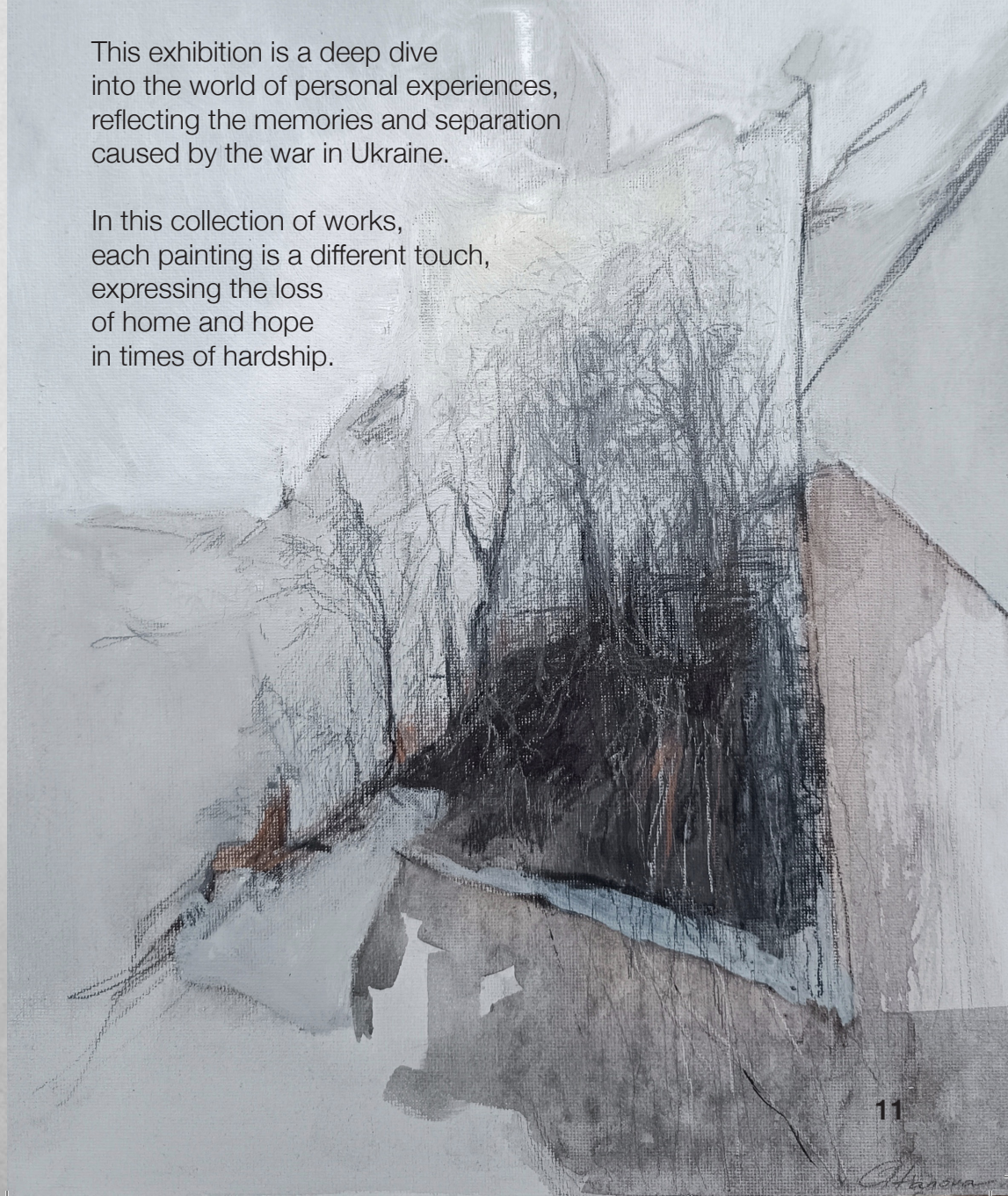
Today, I am pursuing my passion for art and design. I am currently studying interior design at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Ghent (KASK), where I continue to explore and expand my artistic horizons.



All drawings were made from the beginning of the war in until today. The sketch of the naked woman was drawn in the first days of the invasion, sitting in the basement. The following drawings were created after moving to Belgium.

This exhibition is a deep dive into the world of personal experiences, reflecting the memories and separation caused by the war in Ukraine.

In this collection of works, each painting is a different touch, expressing the loss of home and hope in times of hardship.



A portrait of a young man with light blue eyes and a short beard, wearing a dark blue jacket and a brown cap. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a brick wall with some graffiti.

Sasha Magula

“War is not an adventure. War is a disease.
Like typhus.” - Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

From the very beginning of my studies at the university in Kharkiv, I dreamed of being a photojournalist, including a military photographer. I always thought I would go somewhere far from home, I thought it would be a great way to discover the world and its global processes.

I never thought how wrong I could be and that war would come to my home, to my city.

My dreams of adventure turned into a nightmare.

The photos from this series were taken in the period from April 2022 to August 2023. During this period, I visited different parts of my war-torn country: my native Kharkiv, Kherson, Izyum, Donbas and Kyiv. Most of all, I take news pictures and make reports for various publications, but over time I can choose individual photos that form surrealistic series about good and evil, about life and death. This series of photographs tells the story of what my people see every day for the past year and a half: the struggle between good and evil, life and death.

catchthetraffic@gmail.com

 [oleksandr_magula](https://www.instagram.com/oleksandr_magula)



Emiel Petrovitch

Since 2018, I have been involved in Pieter-Jan De Pue's documentary project on the war in Ukraine. We had the opportunity to follow residents of Ukraine on both sides of the conflict, from small farming villages to bustling provincial capitals, representing people from all walks of life. We engaged in conversations with everyone.

In the past year, I have started my own photojournalistic projects. In collaboration with Johannes Decat, we address the current state of Ukraine, unafraid to portray the unvarnished reality. Now, we are undertaking a similar venture in Armenia.

Since my childhood, I have been traveling to former Soviet republics. Since the fall of the Soviet Union in ca. 1991, each one of them has been in search of its own identity, much like my generation. Every time I return to Ukraine, Armenia or Belarus, it feels like reuniting with a friend who, like all young people, is finding her place in the world.





The photos in this exhibition were captured between March and June 2023 and have been made possible by Fonds Pascal Decroos, who provided us with the opportunity to explore Ukraine extensively. We spent most of that time in Kherson and Kharkov.

My preference in photographic my work always leans towards analog photography.


In a time when everything is fast-paced and everyone carries a camera in their pockets, analog photography demands contemplation.

What do I want to show? Is there enough light? Is this frame worth developing?

Traveling to countries in war, I will always try to find and photograph peace.

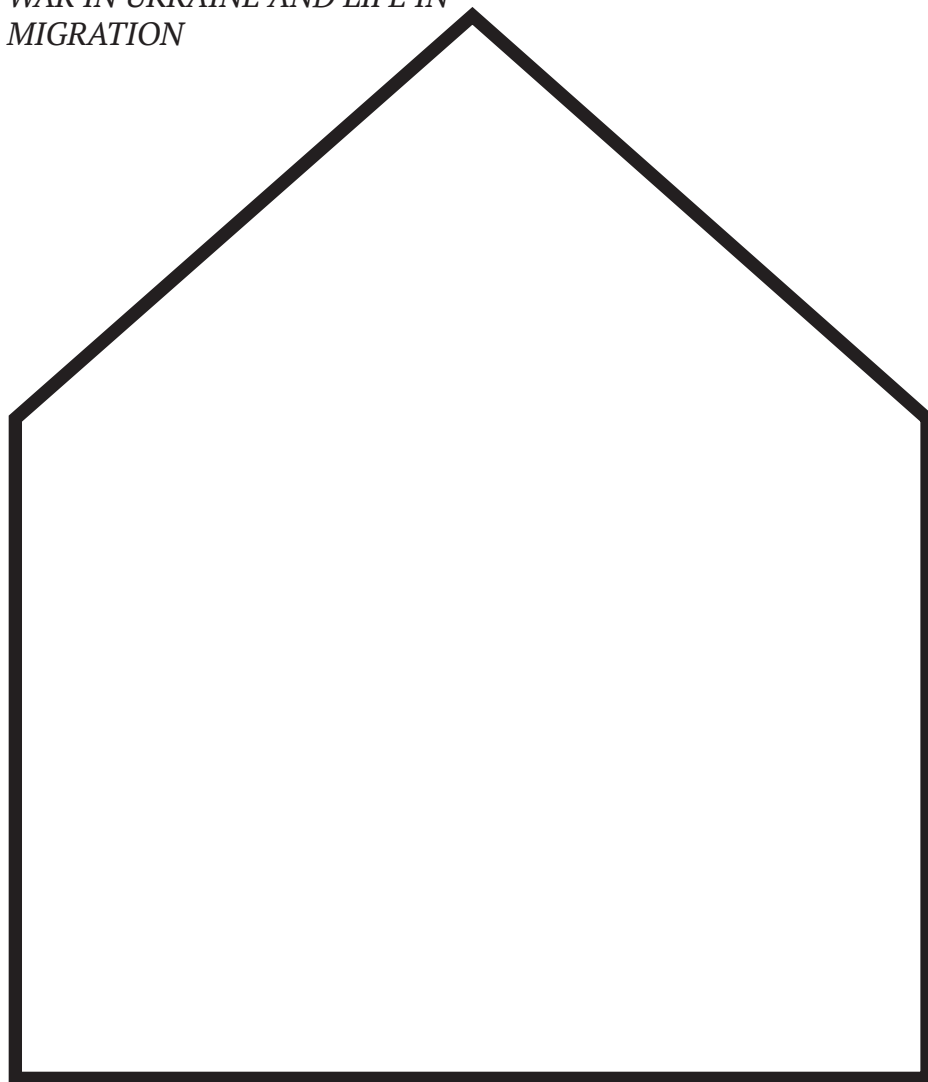
Emiel Petrovitch

www.emielpetrovitch.com
emielpetrovitch@gmail.com

 @emielpetrovitch

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