



TOWARDS A VISION: THE FUTURE OF UKRAINE'S STREETS AND SQUARES

**Private exhibition of works
submitted to the Create Streets
Foundation online survey**

30th January 2025



Towards a vision: the future of Ukraine's streets and squares

When the war ends Ukrainian citizens will consider how they should rebuild their war-scarred towns and cities. Some already are thinking about this or already working on reconstruction projects. Thanks to kind support from a donor, the Create Streets Foundation is working with Ukrainians in the UK, in Ukraine and around the world to start considering this.

To help support this vision we have been asking Ukrainians to tell us what their favourite places, buildings and streets are; using our online survey tool (Create Communities) asking *'Why have you chosen this place? What does it mean to you? What sorts of places would you like to see in the future?'*

In October 2024, we were pleased to host a private view of 'In the Eye of the Storm' exhibition at the Royal Academy followed by an introduction to our 'Towards a Vision for Rebuilding Ukraine' project. We were joined by supporters of the project including Ukrainians living in the UK.

Today we have gathered some of the reflections we have received along with photos and sketches of Ukraine today, historically and the imagined future to help catalyse the conversation to work towards a vision for rebuilding some of Ukraine's streets and spaces.

Taras Shevchenko Park, Kyiv

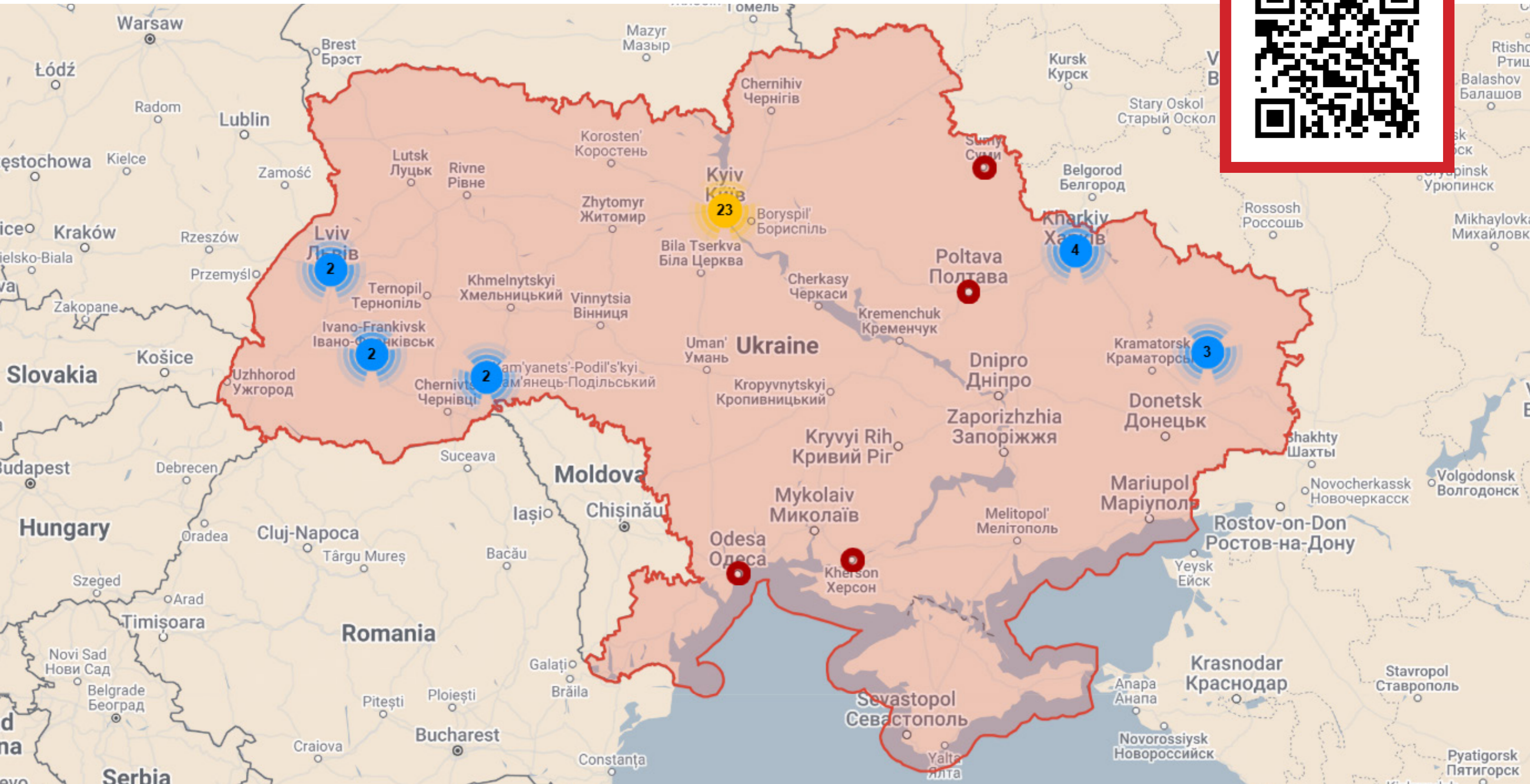
'A quiet corner where students often take a stroll after classes and evoke memories of their student days in Ukraine. It is full of serenity, but at the same time reminds us of a sense of independence, autonomy and change. This place is especially charming in spring, when nature comes to life.'

(A submission to our Create Communities survey)

Since we launched the survey in autumn 2024 we have received submissions from the general public on our Create Communities mapping survey, from 4 professional artists and from a group of students studying art in Kharkiv. Many of these contributions have been deeply personal and tell a story of the kinds of places that people value most from home and where they feel happiest.

The works submitted by professional artists and students can be purchased directly from the contributors via createstreetsfoundation.org.uk/ukraine/

You can contribute to the Create Communities mapping survey and view all the responses by scanning the QR code



A selection of submissions to the Create Communities survey



'Yaroslaviv Val Street. I chose this street because I grew up nearby, often passed by this place or came here on purpose. For me, this central part of the city is a good example of Kyiv's unique architecture, which combines different styles and eras, different cultures and histories. In the sketch, I slightly modified the street, adding aspects that I think are missing: pedestrianisation, developed bicycle infrastructure, and greenery. There are many different aspects of this part of the city, and many other parts of Kyiv and Ukraine, but for this questionnaire I chose this place that is close to me.'



'I took this photo in February 2022, a week before full scale russian invasion. I love the graffiti and remember that day, when we had a thunderstorm in February — very unusual and surreal.'

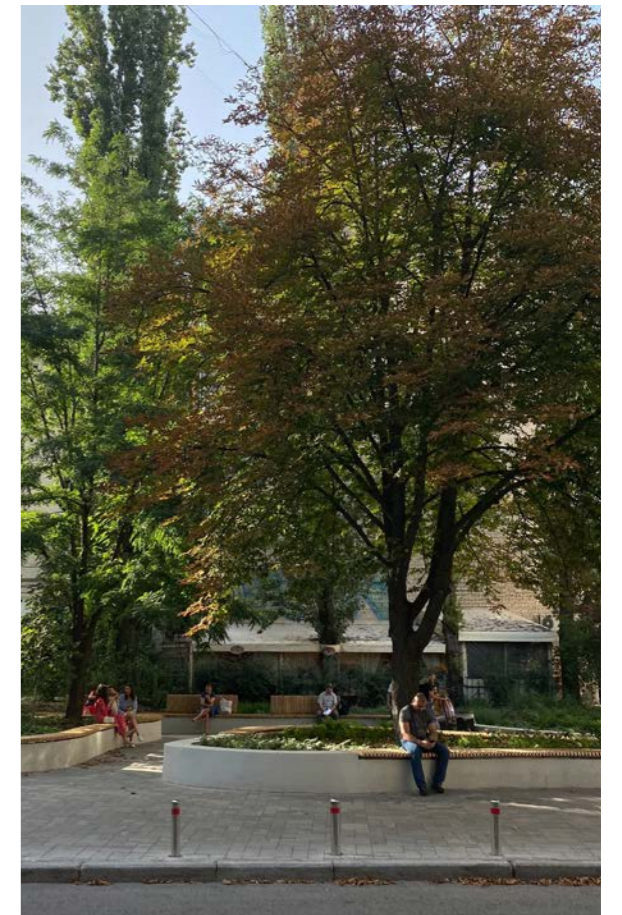


'This is the Old Town in Kamianets-Podilskyi. This is one of the most beautiful and interesting historical cities in Ukraine. I like to walk there in the summer, turning from the old town to the paths on both sides of the Smotrych River'



'The garden, the buildings and the space around it are absolutely unique for Ukrainian cities. Nowhere else is there such a layout of the main space of the city. It will be very important to properly represent the colonial history of this place somewhere in the space, but this space needs to be preserved and developed.'

'I chose Reitarska Street in Kyiv because I think it is an example of how Kyiv should develop in the future. Personally, I am attracted to this street because of its cosy courtyards, a large selection of different food outlets and shops, and of course, creative people for whom Reitarska has become a centre of existence and socialisation... Reitarska is aimed at pedestrians, not cars. There are wide sidewalks on both sides of the street, slow traffic, regulated parking spaces and, most pleasantly, a cycle lane separated from pedestrians by a curb and cars by columns, which are also clearly marked in red. The next thing is landscaping: walking along Reitarska, you can see both old trees and freshly planted maples. The square at the intersection with Strilletska, shaded by tall trees and comfortable benches, has become a pleasant place to relax.'



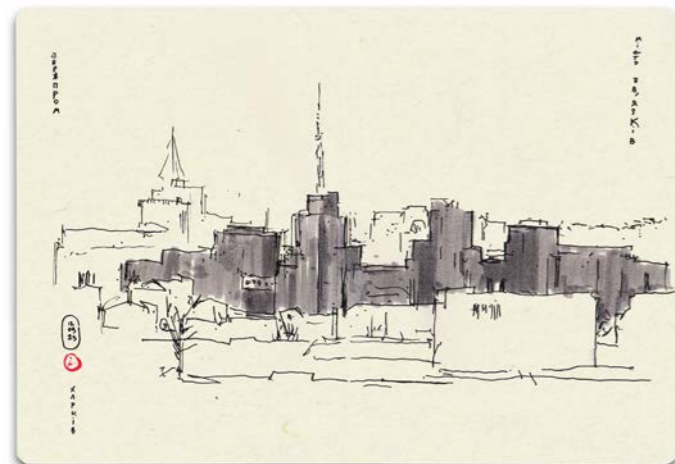
Submissions from professional Ukrainian artists

Andriy Skrypka

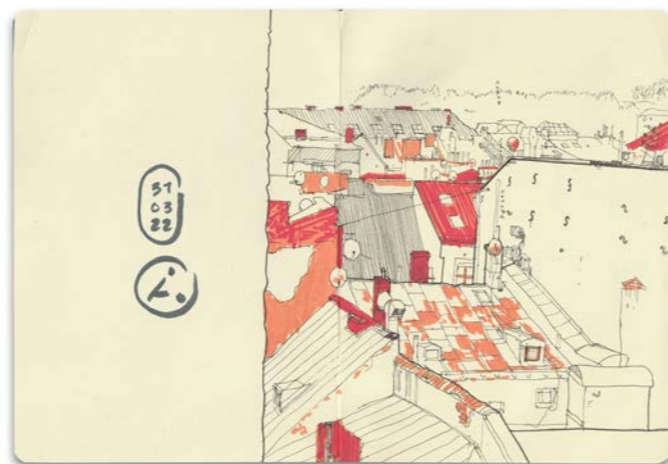
www.instagram.com/a_r__t_s/

'My name is Andrii Skrypka, and I am a 35-year-old designer and artist.'

'During the war, my professional field lost much of its significance to me as I shifted my focus to volunteering and offering help where it was most needed. In Lviv, I assisted artists in transporting their works to Europe or relocating them within Ukraine between exhibitions and storage facilities. Despite these shifting priorities, I never abandoned my practice of sketching in transit — a peculiar process I do not fully comprehend myself, somewhere between art and meditation'



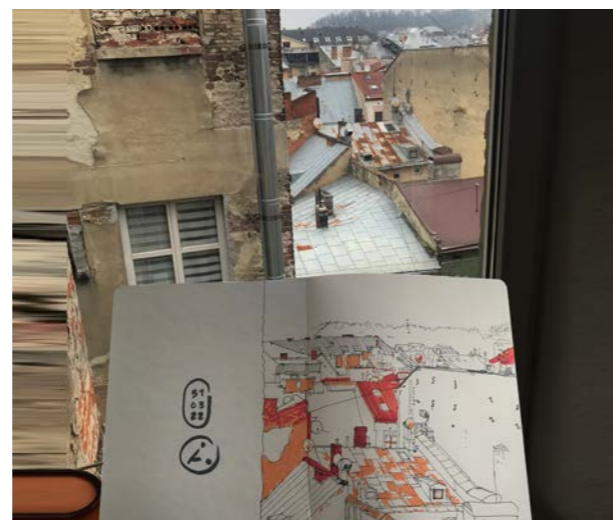
1. Kharkiv, the city of connections - £150



2. Lviv roof textures - £150



3. View of the Heavenly Hundred - £200



Masha Ektova

ektovam.com

Masha Ektova is a Ukrainian artist and illustrator based in Kyiv.

She takes inspiration from Kyiv streets and captures her experiences using bright colours in sketches on the iPad. Later, she transforms them into a series, which is distributed as posters and postcards.

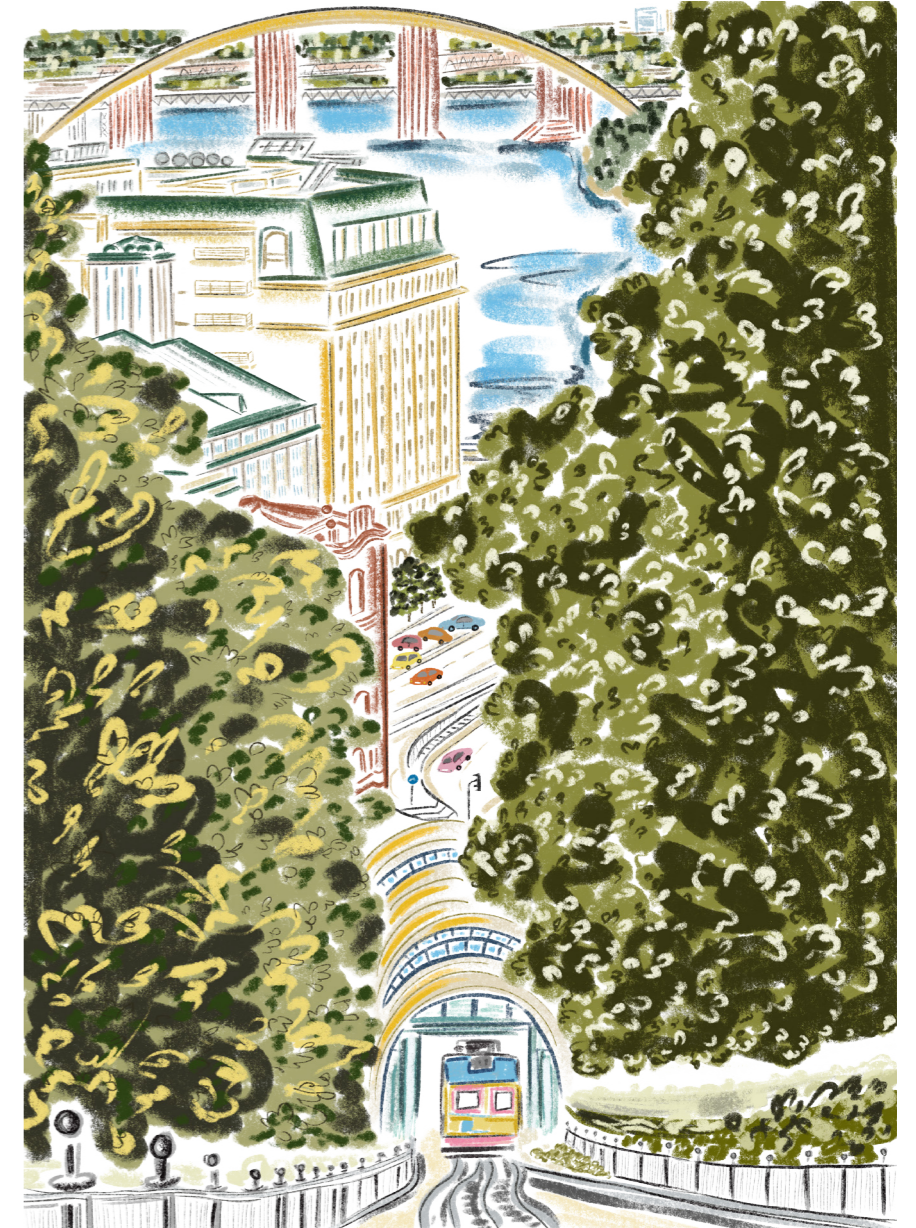
Masha has covered various commissions including editorial, publishing and product design. Alongside her commercial practice, she develops her artistic practice through personal projects.



1. Khreschatyk Street - £60



2. Maidan Nezalezhnosti - £60



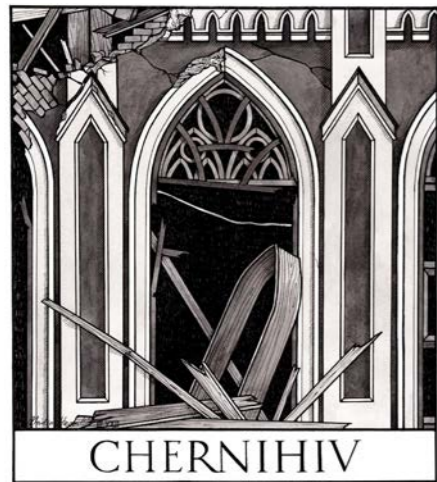
3. Kyiv Funicular - £60

Nadia Heart

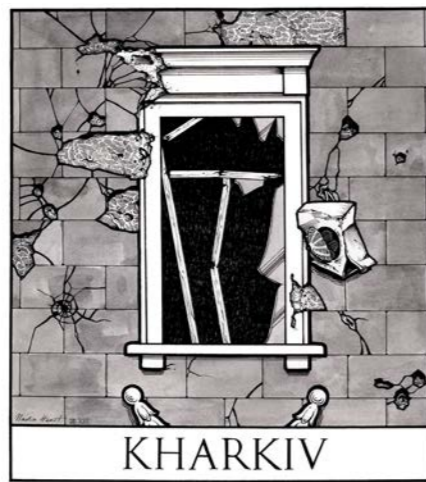
www.nadia-heart.com

'My name is Nadia Heart. I am a graphic artist from Ukraine. I work in inkart, lineart and grisaille techniques. I found my artistic expression in achromatic colors that remind me of rain, sadness and warm thick fog. My father is Ukrainian and my mother is Buryatian.

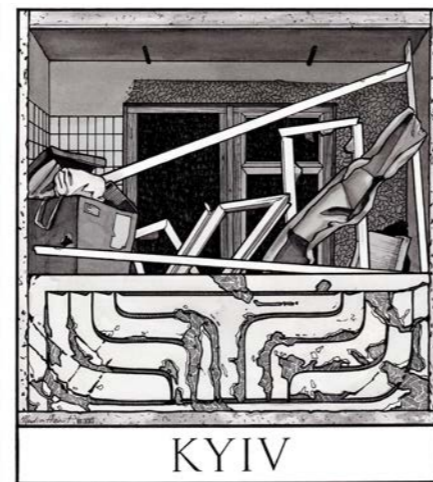
I was born and raised in Kyiv. I also live and work here. I'm in love with my city, which impresses with its history and cultural heritage.'



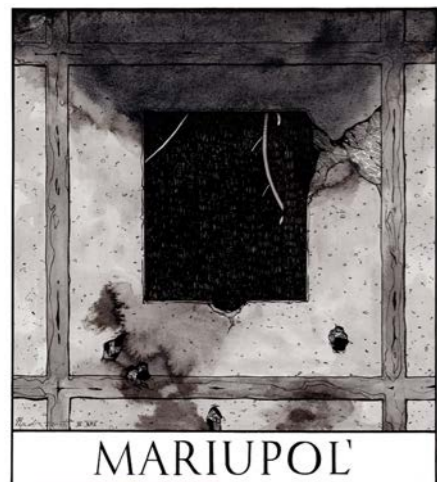
1. Chernihiv - £70



2. Kharkiv - £70



3. Kyiv - £70



4. Mariupol - £70

'These drawings are portraits of cities at the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion. These are real buildings that were shelled by the enemy and that were written about in the news: the "Palace of Labor" in Kharkiv, the Museum of Ukrainian Antiquities in Chernihiv, residential buildings in Kyiv and Mariupol. The house in Kyiv was drawn from nature — it is a neighboring house, not far from where I live, so I heard the wave and sound of the "arrival" personally. Therefore, I decided to record this in my work, so as never to forget the price of freedom.'

Oksana Boiko

linktr.ee/Swyatozzarra

Oksana Boiko is a Ukrainian artist from Kharkiv, now based in Kyiv. In painting, Oksana is mainly attracted by the search for the rhythmic interconnection of color spots, color organization, and space flexibility. The subjects of her works are full of everyday hustle and bustle, which is very familiar to city dwellers. Traffic lights, cars, night lights, and pedestrians organically create the view we see daily in the city.



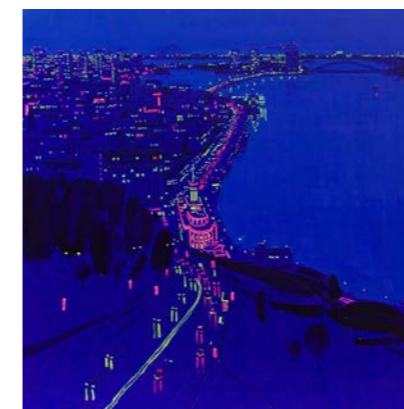
Derzhprom - £400



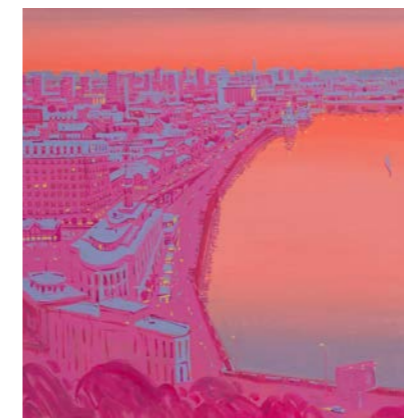
Podil view - £400



Saltivka. View from 25 floor - £400



Blue Podil - £400



Pink Podil - £400

Podil: 'Kyiv is the busiest city in Ukraine. And you can see this if you watch Kyiv, how fast the car lights move in the evening, when it is almost night, but still in blue shadows, and the evening lights and street lighting begin to shine.'

Derzhprom: 'The most incredible symbol of Kharkiv is the Derzhprom building. It has inspired many poets, writers, filmmakers, and artists. It is hard to understand how it could have been built in the 20s of the 20th century...'

Saltivka: 'Saltivka is the most affected residential area of Kharkiv by the full-scale invasion...This building was a shelter for me and my family. From this building, I watched a Russian army plane being shot down in the first days of the full-scale invasion. But this work I did makes me nostalgic for the peaceful times when I was just walking around and enjoying the serene view from the 25-story building.'

Artwork from Kharkiv students

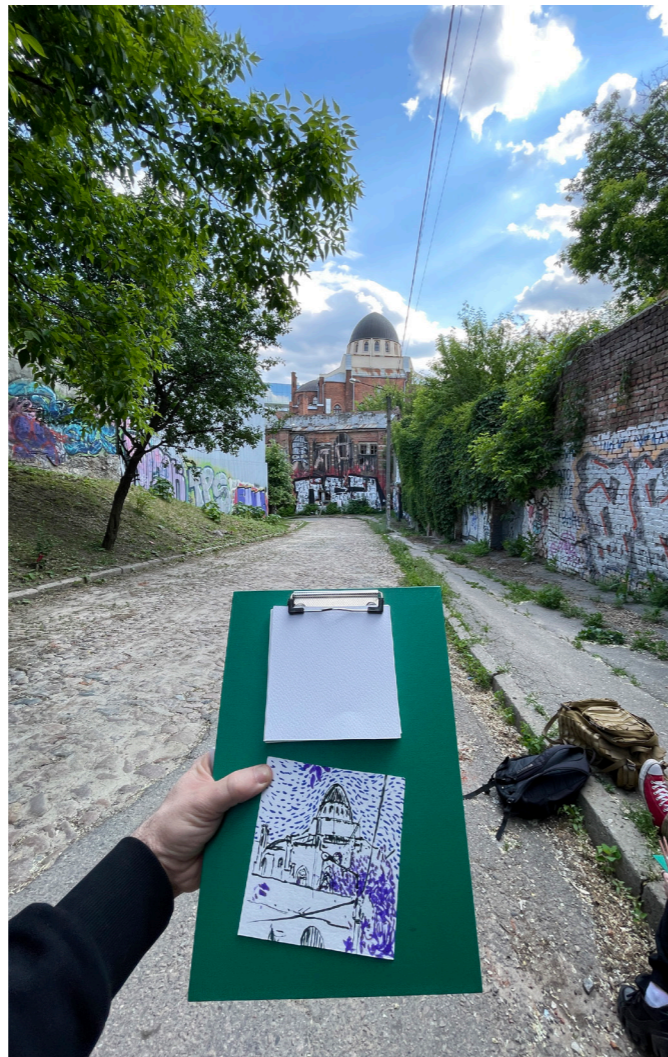
'How I see the city'

The educational space Imagination in Kharkiv, in collaboration with artist Andriy Skrypka and local teenagers, painted various streets and buildings of the city. Typically, Kharkiv's architecture and streets are considered iconic and visually striking.

A key aspect of these drawing walks was working within specific constraints, including:

1. A uniform square sheet format of 15 × 15 cm.
2. Each artist selecting three different drawing materials — either three colours of the same medium (e.g. pencils) or a mix of different types (e.g. marker, pencil, and coloured collage paper).

Beyond these material and format limitations, our perception itself is constrained by factors such as attention, awareness, and vision. Thus, when observing a building, we inevitably encounter the limits of our own perception.



The Create Streets Foundation

The Create Streets Foundation is dedicated to helping neighbourhoods, parishes, councils, landowners, and housebuilders to create and steward places in which the body and soul can prosper, in which we can tread lightly upon the planet.

Through rigorous research, advocacy, and education programmes, we seek to inspire and effect positive transformations in planning and architectural policy and practice, in order to improve the creation and stewardship of vibrant, happy and sustainable neighbourhoods.

"Over a decade ago, driving to B&Q to buy pot plants, I passed a major 'regeneration' development in London so hideous and soulless that I ended up resigning from my job in the City determined to find a better way to create desperately-needed new homes. My mission started that day.

I set out to research what makes a happy, prosperous and resilient place, how developers could be encouraged, at an early stage, to work with the community to avoid local conflict and years of expensive appeals and how to transform our approach to 'planning'. Create Streets is the umbrella social enterprise that gathers neighbours, architects, planners, academics and local leaders to find solutions to the challenge. Create Streets' ground-breaking research has had a major impact on the Government's policy and on developments from Cumbria to Cornwall.

Please join us in our mission to help neighbourhoods, parishes, councils, landowners, and housebuilders to create and steward places in which the body and soul can prosper. For the best part of a century we have not been good at creating places in which people most want to live. Until we change that reality, we will never change the politics."

Create Streets Foundation founder, Nicholas Boys Smith MBE

You can donate to the Create Streets Foundation through this QR code



'The place in the photo is called the cross - it's where Ivan Kotliarevskiy and Kyivska streets intersect. I really love this part of Kotliarevskoho because it goes up in a serpentine way from the bottom to the top, there are many rounded houses, roses in the yards that bloom from spring to autumn, extremely old lilacs grow here, and trams run on old cobblestones. It's a place where I run around, enjoy every flower and the curves of the buildings.'

(A submission to our Create Communities survey)