## **POSMIHAYSIA**

OPENING RECEPTION: June 5, 2025 | 18:00 to 20:00

DATES:

June 6 - July 13, 2025

GALLERY HOURS:
Wednesday-Sunday | 11:00 to 18:00

ADDRESS:

13 Tereshchenkivska St, Kyiv, 01004

Voloshyn Gallery is pleased to present Posmihaysia (Smile), Oleksiy Sai's solo exhibition at the gallery's Kyiv location. Created as a means of maintaining a sense of normalcy and positivity amidst the ongoing war, the exhibition features a series of lighthearted portraits made in the artist's signature Excel art style.

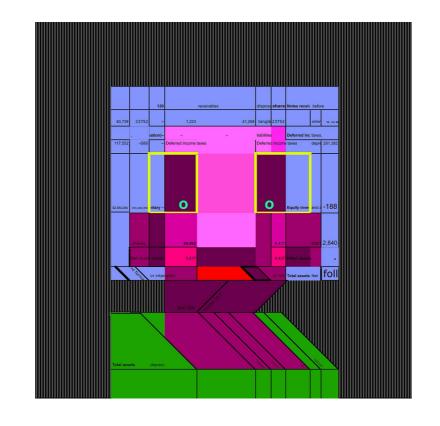
ON IMAGE:

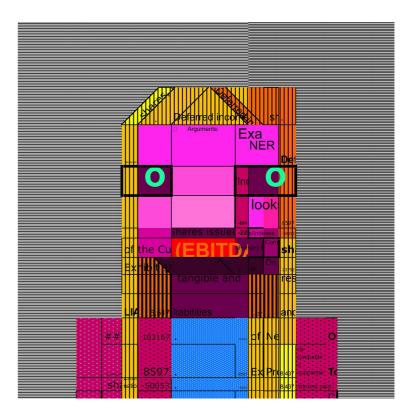
Untitled, 2025 Oleksiy Sai

Digital prints

50 x 50 cm 19 3/4 x 19 3/4 in.

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Each of them reveals an original character with distinct looks, traits and attributes. Sai utilizes Excel software to construct the figures piece by piece, carefully choosing the colour palette, form, as well as the figure's unique mood and characteristics.

Currently dedicating the majority of his time and artistic efforts towards the production of large-scale sculptures and installations which seek to remind the audiences of the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war, both in Ukraine and worldwide, in his free time, Sai continues working on the portraits as a way of producing something more casual. Despite living through a time of major socio-political change he remains interested in continuing the *Portrait* series which he began in 2021. The entire series can, therefore, be viewed as a single art object, indicative of an artist's attempt to regain, albeit only for a moment, a sense of pre-war normalcy, when such cheerful colourful works were the majority in his portfolio.

The exhibition invites the viewers to unwind and enjoy the lighthearted portraits of Oleksiy Sai's imaginary characters, which remind us that there is a place for happiness even in the most challenging times.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

### Oleksiy Sai

Oleksiy Sai (b. 1975, Kyiv, Ukraine) utilizes various media, but is mostly known for his personal invention – the praxis of Excel-Art. Sai has been working with Excel software as a visual language resource since 2004. He graduated from the Kyiv College of Arts and Industries with a degree in graphic design in 1993, and later from the Department of Easel Graphic Art at the National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture in 2001. Sai received the PinchukArtCentre Prize (2009), the nationwide contemporary art prize for young Ukrainian artists.

Oleksiy Sai has recently been featured in major solo and group exhibitions, including Collateral Event of the Collateral Event of the 60th International Art Exhibition the Venice Biennial, Venice (IT); No Grey Zones, Voloshyn Gallery, Miami, FL, USA; Exhibition, Voloshyn Gallery, Kyiv (UA); A Letter from the Front – Лист з фронту at Haus der Kunst (DE); Hi-Resolution: Ukrainian Culture and Contemporary Art Now!, The James Gallery, NYC, US; She Asked, I Followed. Her Name Is After, Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Miami, FL, (US); Worth Fighting For at PinchukArtCentre, Cologne (DE); Permanent Revolution, Ludwig Museum, Budapest, Hungary;



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MAXXI - Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo in Rome (IT).

His work is in private and public collections, including Ludwig Museum in Budapest, (HU), and the Odesa Museum of Modern Art (UA). Sai's works have been covered and reviewed by The New York Times, The Guardian and other publications.

#### ABOUT VOLOSHYN GALLERY

In 2016, Max and Julia Voloshyn established Voloshyn Gallery in the heart of Kyiv, Ukraine. Situated in a historic 1913 building, Voloshyn Gallery's space provides an unconventional setting for contemporary art. It exhibits a broad range of works in a variety of media, representing both emerging and established artists. Voloshyn Gallery hosts solo and group exhibitions, works with accomplished curators and museums, and takes part in leading contemporary art fairs.

In 2022, Voloshyn Gallery made the difficult decision to close temporarily due to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In 2023 the gallery reopened its doors in Kyiv, Ukraine and also expanded with a space in Miami, Florida.

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