

VOLOSHYN GALLERY

Voloshyn Gallery at Untitled Art 2022

November 28th - December 3rd, 2022
Address: Ocean Drive and 12th Street
Miami Beach, Florida, US
Booth: C34



Lesia Khomenko, *Untitled*, 2022. Courtesy the artist and Voloshyn Gallery

Voloshyn Gallery proudly presents a group show of Ukrainian artists Lesia Khomenko, Nikita Kadan, Oleksiy Sai, and Mykola Ridnyi at Untitled Art Miami Beach 2022. Many of the works showcased in the booth were created before the Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022, taking on new meaning in today's environment. Other works were created amidst the invasion that has shaken the world. Working on the edge of different techniques and media, while combining research with intuition, artists showcase the significance of an artistic statement in time of war and how artworks garner new weight in the context of history.

Lesia Khomenko's artistic practice is currently focused on the ways of looking at the war and the ways the war represents itself. In her works, the artist combines found images with her experience of war and experiences of her nearest and dearest. Continuing to analyze the connections between the place, its political subjectivity, and artistic practice, Lesia has found a precise method to articulate how the mediums of painting and photography get conditioned by martial law. In her new series *Untitled*, the artist depicts soldiers unknown to her on large canvases. The artist is interested in the media aspect of the war, particularly the cyber war. Ukraine's martial law prohibits taking photos of military facilities, soldiers, and equipment on security grounds. Photography ceases to be an instrument and becomes a dangerous weapon. By turning found pictures into paintings, the artist references the historical tradition of depicting war and translates the language of digital imagery into that of painting.

And ideas become a tool in their original form. The artist uses images, giving them opposite meanings. She draws a parallel between the artistic view and military optics in objectifying the body in the built distance.

Nikita Kadan engages in a dialogue with works by Lesia Khomenko and presents works from the series *Observations on Archives* and from the series *Broken Pole*. In this series, the author offers to consider the topic of destruction and oblivion and loss of heritage. After all, the archive turns out to be an excessive and impermissible luxury in the conditions of "austerity" and social catastrophe - which returns human experience to a state of homogeneity. The internal connections and structure of the narrative are destroyed and crumbled, turning into a mass of loose indivisible material and, thus, giving simple integrity. In his the Broken Pole series, Kadan addresses the avant-garde legacy (the works of the artist Vasyl Yermilov, among others), reimagining it with a contemporary flair. The Broken Pole brings together resin-coated metal shields and silk prints of photographs of the buildings destroyed during the military hostilities in Donbas.

The earlier works by Oleksiy Sai and Mykola Ridnyi assume new meanings in today's environment. This process is symptomatically represented by works from the *Shelter* series by Mykola Ridnyi, which was evacuated from Kharkiv in the spring of this year. Created in 2012 and 2013, the sculptures depict different bomb shelters, both as relics and as a phenomenon that found new meaning: first, in 2014, and now, in 2022, as many bomb shelters returned to their initial purpose after the invasion.

The work of Oleksiy Sai from the series *Bombed*, which was started by the author back in 2015 as a reaction to the current events in the country, is presented. The Bombed series unites bird's-eye views of Eastern Ukrainian landscapes pockmarked by bomb craters left by the war. Sai obliterates the surfaces of his earlier works almost completely with disk grinders, drills and abrasive materials, transforming them into tactile maps of ruination. Gradually losing the original legible images, the works become almost abstract while remaining filled with wholly concrete meanings.

About Lesia Khomenko

Lesia Khomenko is one of the most notable young artists of her generation. She has been showing her work continuously for almost two decades, locally and abroad, and her work forms part of public and private collections. Lesia Khomenko has created a vibrant international career over the last 15 years while influencing and supporting many Ukrainian artists. Since 2004 – a member of the R.E.P. group. Co-founder of a curatorial union HUDRADA, a self-educational community, based on interdisciplinary cooperation. The artist has shown dramatically in the PinchukArtCentre Prize (2009, 2011, 2013), the nationwide prize in contemporary art for young Ukrainian artists up to 35. Currently, lives and works in Miami, US.

About Oleksiy Sai

Oleksiy Sai is the artist who uses different 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. Besides the fact that Sai sees the means of Excel as the most appropriate mode of addressing the office life realities, the artist's choice to embrace the software developed to process large corpuses of data is also an attempt to demystify art practice as such. Oleksiy Sai was born in 1975 in Kyiv, where he lives and works to this day. He graduated from the Kyiv College of Arts and Industries with a degree in graphic design in 1993, and from the Department of Easel Graphic Art at the National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture in 2001. PinchukArtCentre Prize nominee '09, he is widely exhibited. Oleksiy Sai took part in many group and solo exhibitions in Ukraine and abroad. His works were exhibited at Black Square Gallery (Miami, the USA), Saatchi Gallery (London, the UK), Bunsen Goertz Gallery (Nurembreg, Germany), etc.

About Mykola Ridnyi

Mykola Ridnyi was born in Kharkiv (1985), lives and works in Kyiv. In 2005 he became a co-founder of the SOSka group and the gallery-laboratory of the same name in Kharkiv. He works with photography, video, collage, installation, and sculpture. He was a curator of several art projects, one of which - "Armed and Dangerous" (2019) exists in the form of a video exhibition, almanac, and online platform. The artist participated in the National Pavilion of Ukraine at the Venice Biennale (2013, 2015), as well as in the main project of the Biennale "All the World's Futures" (2015). His work "Lost Baggage" (2019), created for the 12th Biennale in Kaunas, was included in the permanent exhibition of the IX Fort Holocaust Memorial Museum. Other works of the artist are in the public collections of the Pinakothek of Modernity in Munich, Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Warsaw Museum of Contemporary Art, Ludwig Museum in Budapest, and others.

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About Voloshyn Gallery

Founded in October 2016 by Max and Julia Voloshyn, Voloshyn Gallery specializes in contemporary art. It showcases a broad range of media in contemporary art, hosting solo and group exhibitions and participating in leading contemporary art fairs. Voloshyn Gallery participates in leading contemporary art fairs. Over the course of the last two years, the gallery has participated in The Armory Show, Liste Basel, Art Cologne, Vienna Contemporary, Dallas Art Fair, Pulse Art Fair, Nada Miami, Untitled Art, Art Athina, Expo Chicago etc. Zhanna Kadyrova's solo presentation from Voloshyn Gallery was awarded the Pulse Prize (2018) at the Pulse Art Fair. The project was also noted by the curators of the Perez Art Museum Miami. Voloshyn Gallery is a member of The New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA).

About Untitled Art

Untitled Art is the leading independent art fair taking place annually on the sands of Miami Beach. Guided by a mission to support the wider art ecosystem, Untitled Art offers an inclusive platform for discovering contemporary art and prioritizes collaboration in each aspect of the fair. Untitled Art 2022 will take place during Miami Art Week from Tuesday November 29 through Saturday December 3, with a VIP Preview on Monday November 28. The fair coincides with Art Basel Miami Beach, held from Thursday December 1 to Saturday December 3.

For all press inquiries, contact:
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