

## **Brief information about the 7 finalists of (re)connection UA, partner project of MOCA NGO and UNESCO**

### **1. Exhibition project "Reconnecting Frankivsk, Kyiv, and Dnipro: Working Room" (Ivano-Frankivsk)**

*Institution profile:* Asortymentna Kimnata is a space in Ivano-Frankivsk and a scaled model of supportive formats of "periphery" contemporary art. Founded in 2017 in Ivano-Frankivsk by Other Education, this space/gallery is focused on researching the local assortment on "product" and conceptual levels. Experimenting with solutions for uncompromising decentralization, Asortymentna Kimnata holds exhibitions and music events, and offers residencies and educational programs.

*About the project:* Working Room (<http://www.workingroom.space/>) is an artistic residency and working laboratory created in Ivano-Frankivsk in early March 2022 for artists who were forced to relocate to Western Ukraine due to the beginning of full-scale Russian unprovoked war against Ukrainian sovereignty and people. The goal of the residency was to create new material objects of testimony to the war in local and global contexts. In March-May 2022, 17 artists created about 60 art objects exhibited in Ivano-Frankivsk Maribor, Vienna, and Berlin. As the final location, the team chose the city of Dnipro, where the artworks will be displayed in collaboration with the ArtSvit gallery (<https://artsvit.dp.ua>) and Dnipro Center for Contemporary Culture (<https://dniproccc.org/>). The exhibition of the works of Working Room does not repeat any of the previous exhibitions but will be the most complete and demonstrate many new derivative works of artists that they created already after June and after leaving Ivano-Frankivsk/returning to Kyiv. At the opening, the team will hold a public discussion about the features and limitations of "military art," as well as artist talks by individual artists. The project primarily aims at exhibiting at least 60 artworks by 17 artists, initiating an open discussion in Dnipro about the features and limitations of "military art," including the issue of the ethical framework of using original artifacts and photos from military actions and places of mass murder, organizing a series of artist streams of artists from Kyiv and Ivano-Frankivsk, as well as their informal meetings with the Dnipro artistic community, and outlining ideas for further creative collaborations and joint projects between Frankivsk, Kyiv, and Dnipro artistic communities.

### **2. Residency and exhibition project "ART KUZEMYN: Place for Art" (Kharkiv)**

*Institution profile:* Founded in March 2012, YermilovCentre is a centre of contemporary art in Kharkiv named after the famous Kharkiv artist, the representative of the Ukrainian avant-garde Vasyl Yermilov. It is the largest exhibition space in Kharkiv that represents contemporary Ukrainian art processes. The Centre's priorities are artistic dialogue with the viewer and international cooperation.

*About the project:* On February 24, 2022, the life of the artistic community of Kharkiv changed: during ten days of war, artists, their families, and children stayed in YermilovCentre, which at that time was a relief centre and a bomb shelter. Back then, everyone made pivotal decisions and left their homes and workshops in search of safety. Some stayed in Kharkiv, and some moved to other regions of Ukraine and abroad. The project's primary goal is to restore connections between Kharkiv artists on the relatively safe territory of the ART KUZEMYN residence (Sumy region). The idea is to organize the work of the residence as a laboratory for Kharkiv artists who will be offered the opportunity to share their experience of war, evacuation,

and stay abroad, so that later, in discussions, they can develop the concept of the future project together. And the final product of the residency is a developed exposition, which YermilovCentre will present in Ukraine and Poland.

### **3. Animation of Art Resistance in Occupation (Kherson)**

*Institution profile:* Founded in 2015, the Urban Re-Public NGO (Kherson) focused on urban planning, protection, and promotion of cultural heritage and contemporary art. In March 2022, on the initiative of Yuliia Manukian, art critic and curator of the Urban Re-Public NGO, 6 Kherson artists who were then under occupation decided to organize themselves into the Residence in Occupation with the objective to transform their experience into art, document and interpret unbearable "occupations routine" through the lens of art, support each other and keep in touch with the cultural environment of free Ukraine. Each of them created a series of works on the theme of the war and the occupation of Kherson. The article about the residency written by Yuliia Manukian for The Guardian (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jul/23/khersons-secret-art-society-produces-searing-visions-of-life-under-russian-occupation>) received huge resonance.

*About the project:* The project team expects to create at least 20 animated videos based on the works of Kherson artists, including representatives of the artistic community from Kherson. They are now scattered across various cities of Ukraine and beyond. Therefore, the project addresses the collaborative creative process, communication, and cooperation of like-minded people and friends who were forced to change their everyday life and communication environment.

### **4. Creation of an authentic open space in the ARVM Museum (Kyiv)**

*Institution profile:* The Ada Rybachuk and Volodymyr Melnychenko Cultural Heritage Preservation Fund was founded in 2019 by Volodymyr Melnychenko and his close friends. The Foundation's mission is to preserve the invaluable cultural heritage of outstanding Ukrainian artists and to grant it the status of a cultural phenomenon recognized at the national and international level, designed and registered according to world norms and traditions. Over the years of its existence, the Foundation implemented many high-profile projects for the preservation and restoration of significant objects of Kyiv architecture by Ada Rybachuk and Volodymyr Melnychenko. It carried out work on the systematization and cataloguing of the collection of ARVM works, which included several thousand items.

*About the project:* We are talking about the workshop studio of prominent Ukrainian artists Ada Rybachuk and Volodymyr Melnychenko, who rightfully take place among the leading figures of Ukrainian art of the 1960s-1980s. The workshop was built in 1971 and is located in the historical centre of Kyiv. Since the artists seldom sold their works, the workshop has accumulated an almost complete collection of their works over the past 70 years. By the miracle and efforts of Ada Rybachuk and Volodymyr Melnychenko, the workshop itself has not gone through any changes over decades. Everyone who enters these walls feels the atmosphere and spirit of creativity of the great masters in their original form. Surrounded by a yard filled with sculptures and whimsical structures created by artists, the two-storey house is located minutes from Independence Square and the Golden Gate.

The project team aims to create a unique, authentic open space, the ARVM Museum-Workshop. Thanks to support from the (re)connection UA, the first stage will be implemented,

i.e., developing the concept of the future museum, designing and bringing the museum yard to the state of public space.

### **5. *Dreamscape: audiovisual installation (Kyiv)***

*Institution profile:* EASA NGO is an educational platform for architecture students and professionals.

*About the project:* The project team intends to create an audiovisual installation in one of the Kyiv locations. The installation's themes are shelter, evacuation, temporary housing, temporary stay in non-home premises, private space in times of war and resettlement, the feeling of security and comfort, and the role of music and sound in the perception and acceptance of traumatic events and changes. The project aims to reflect on topics in both personal and public spheres; create an immersive experience; attract the attention of a wide range of communities, i.e., architectural, musical, artistic, and the general public.

### **6. *Development of an opera on Kyiv Mohyla "Ukraine's First University" (Kyiv)***

*Institution profile:* Ukho Music Agency is a Kyiv-based curatorial agency specializing in contemporary classical, improvised, and experimental music. Since its inception in 2012, the agency has presented over 700 pieces of contemporary music (the vast majority being either Ukrainian or world premieres), staged three contemporary operas at the National theater, created a new music ensemble, produced four of its records, and put together a multimedia exhibition "Subsoil Assets: an exhibition of operas in the pavilion of memories." Ukho frequently complements music performances with media art and installations, holds concerts at unconventional locations, and provides elaborate narrative framing of its programs. Its interdisciplinary approach to contemporary classical music performances attracts diverse audiences. It reliably results in a large attendance of 200 – 500 people per concert.

*About the project:* The project's objective is to develop a concept of an opera on Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (17th - 18th centuries) and early modern sources of the Ukrainian national identity to be further elaborated into a new repertoire piece of the National Opera Theatre. Key topics of the opera are early modern university and access to education; the nature of the philosophical dispute; student theater as an origin of Ukrainian operatic tradition; responsibility of cultural elites; Ukrainian Baroque thinker Theophan Prokopovich and his contribution to the Russian imperial project.

### **7. *Online exhibition "The Painting from the Photo That Was Taken on the Big Distance and Then Cropped" (Kyiv)***

*Institution profile:* Founded in 1996, the Institution of Unstable Thoughts NGO is an interdisciplinary cultural organization that brings together Ukrainian and European artists, theorists, musicians, and artists working at the intersection of different media. The institution participated in numerous milestone projects of the 1990s and 2000s, starting with "transPort" (Odessa, 1996) and many others. In 2007, co-founders Oleksandr Hnylytslyi and Lesia Zaiats created a multimedia installation for the project "Poem about the Inner Sea" for the Ukrainian Pavilion at the 52nd Venice Biennale.

*About the project:* Over the past six months, art has become one of the anchor points for the authors of the project to help hold on, find new meanings in life, interact with the new reality,

and think about the future. In addition to the global humanitarian catastrophe that affected everyone, the situation of forced separation from close people and co-authors, the circle of creative communication has also become traumatic. This is why the possibility of working together, albeit at a distance, is both a form of adaptation to the situation and a life-affirming symbol. In this context, the format of the Shukhlíada exposition environment (<https://shukhliada.com/>) is now acquiring new meanings and becoming a response to new challenges. The online exhibition of the visual artist Lesia Khomenko is in the dimension of pure artistic experiment, i.e., the transfer of experiencing a living painting object into the digital world.

**For information:**

**(re)connection UA** is a pilot project implemented by the MOCA NGO with the support of UNESCO, funded by the [UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund](#). We wish to thank its donors: the Qatar Fund for Development, the Government of Canada, the Kingdom of Norway, the French Republic, the Principality of Monaco, ANA Holdings INC., the Republic of Estonia, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Slovak Republic, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Principality of Andorra, and the Republic of Serbia.

The 7 winning projects are part of UNESCO's larger efforts in support of the culture sector in Ukraine. The UN Organization has been deploying numerous emergency measures for more than six months and continues to identify the needs on the ground to support the cultural sector as much as possible, as well as the education sector and freedom of the press, in accordance with its mandate.

**Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)** is a non-governmental organization that unites representatives of artistic and expert communities who work with contemporary art in Ukraine and need a new type of museum institution to establish a full-fledged museum system and platform for expert dialogue. MOCA is a mediator between the professional community (which it coordinates) and governmental bodies. Moreover, MOCA provides the latter with advice on strategy and legal policymaking to implement a professional museum institution of contemporary art in Ukraine. MOCA has been focusing on projects that are particularly relevant during wartime and afterward, specifically the [Ukrainian Emergency Art Fund](#) and [Wartime Art Archive](#).