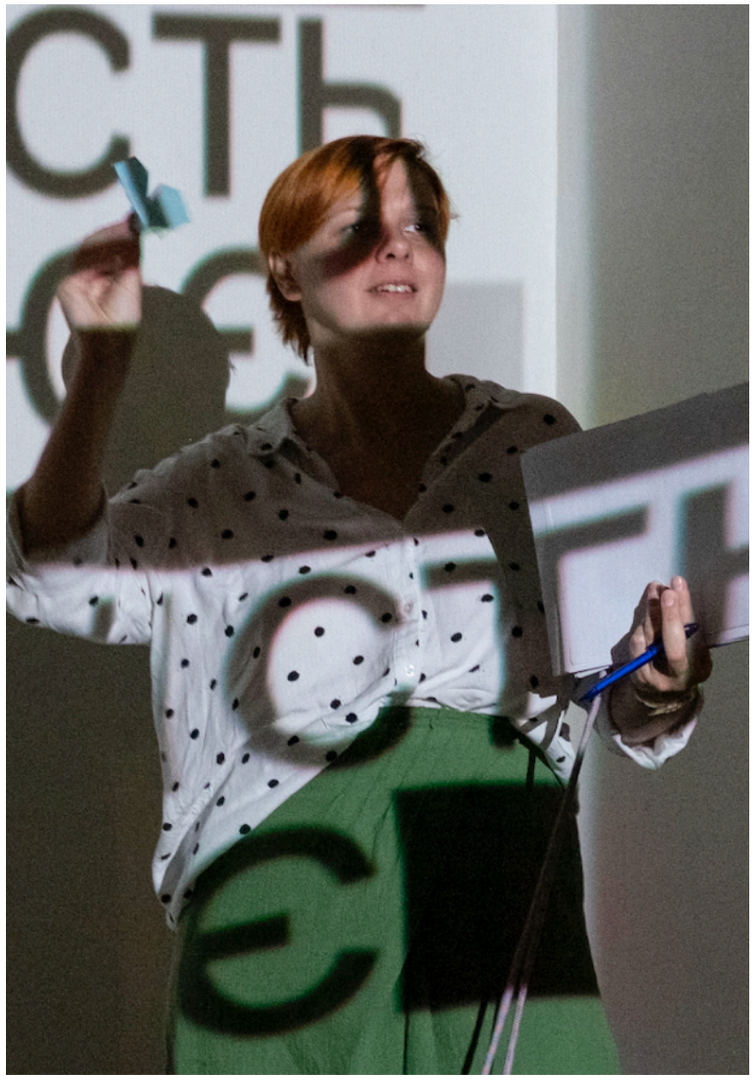


Olga Polyak
Оля Поляк

Artist, educator, curator

Olga Polyak is an interdisciplinary artist, curator, and educator working at the intersection of art, history, and education. Her practice combines participatory and socially engaged methods with collage, hand printing, photography, poetry, and performance, creating spaces for dialogue between personal and collective experience.

Olga develops art programs that bring together artists, teenagers, and educators to reflect on complex social issues through accessible, process-based artistic practices. She often works in public and informal spaces, using a non-directive, improvisational approach that values listening, collaboration, and experimentation. Her projects question how art can serve as a tool for dialogue, reflection, and care, addressing themes of memory, belonging, and social inequality.

She is the founder and curator of the youth art community 20P_, and co-founder of the self-publishing magazine SVAYA. Olga has collaborated with IZOLYATSIA Platform for Cultural Initiatives, Insha Osvita, Asortymentna Kimnata, and the Frankivsk School of Contemporary Art, and has worked alongside artists and curators such as Tereza Yakovyna, Stanislav Turina, Natalia Lisova and Clemens Pul.





Like father, like daughter
Яблуко від яблуні

Digital print
15x10см
2021

This is a series started as a reflection of my childhood in the village. I was raised without much control over my time, near a beech forest. We also have a bog with many trees. I've never met my grandfather - he died long before I was born - but there is an apple tree that he planted, so as a kid I associated him with it and I was quite sure my family is part of the bog.



Artists:
Apex and Mykola Lebed
Bohdan Sokur and Yurko Khoroschak
Danylo Proskurin and Daryna Fes
Ihor Talalai and Anna Kukhlii
Klementyna Kvinde and Olga Babak
Max Robotov and Daryna Soroka
Oleh Barasii and Kateryna Yakovlenko
Diana Derii, Anna Potiomkina and Ksenia Pohrebennyk
Yulia Bodnar and Mashyka Vyshedska
Olesia Saienko and Vasyl Stefanyshyn
Kyrylo Pankratov
Marharyta Polovinko
Bohdan Bunchak
Olaksandr Len
Ostap Brynskyi
Petro Buiak
Regina Bukvych
Stas Krul
Valerie Huzdub

Do the toads sing in the walls?

Чи співають жаби в стінах?

An artistic correspondence between artists serving in the military and their civilian colleagues. The project emerged as a response to the growing distance - emotional, spatial, and experiential - between those who are at war and those who remain in relative safety. It aims to sustain connection within the Ukrainian artistic community and make visible the voices and practices of artists in the military, whose presence often remains unheard or unseen.

The project has so far resulted in two exhibitions:

- “Toads (do not) Sing in the Walls” (February 2024) — introducing the format of correspondence and first artistic collaborations.
  https://asortymentna-kimnata.space/ne-spivaiut-zhaby-v-stinakh/
- “Do They Sing?” (August 2025) — expanding the metaphorical dialogue to include works by artists who died in the war.
  https://asortymentna-kimnata.space/chy-spivaiut/

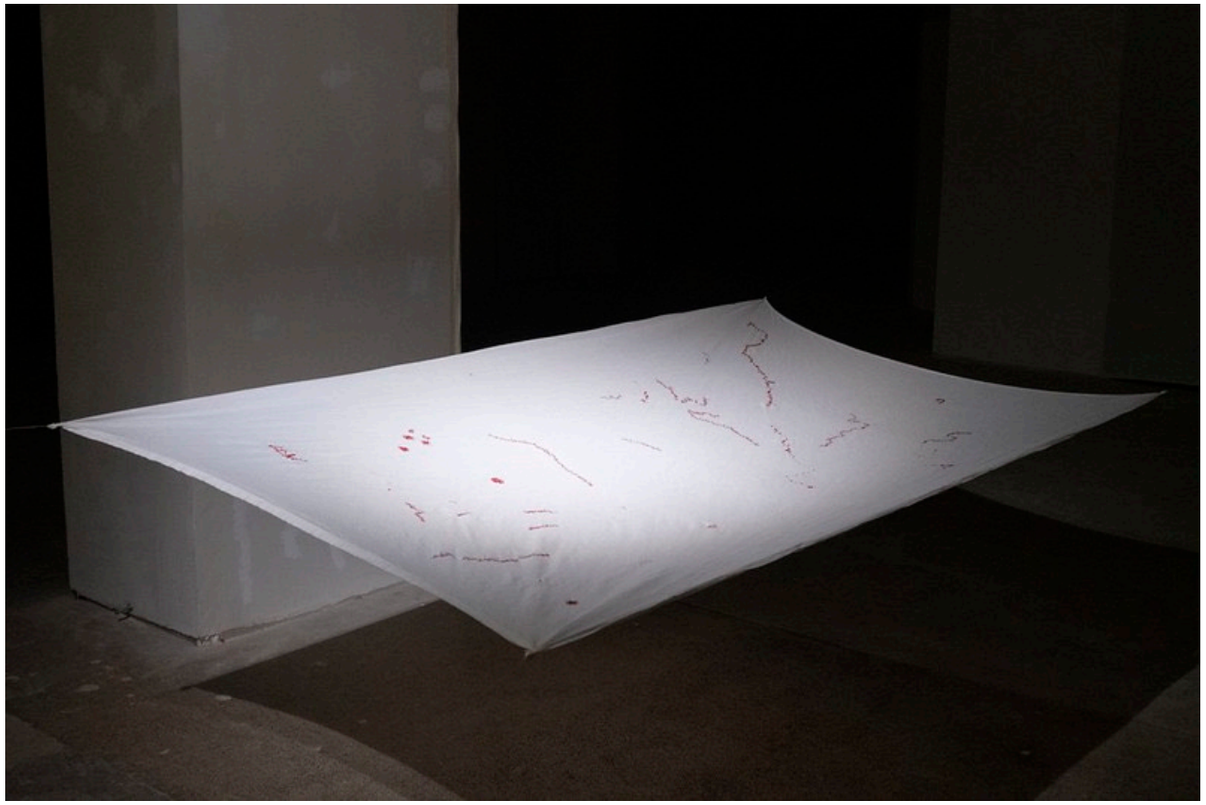
Developed by Asortymentna Kimnata and supported by ERSTE Foundation, the project continues to be a living network of voices, stories, and fragile presences sustained through the simple act of staying in touch.

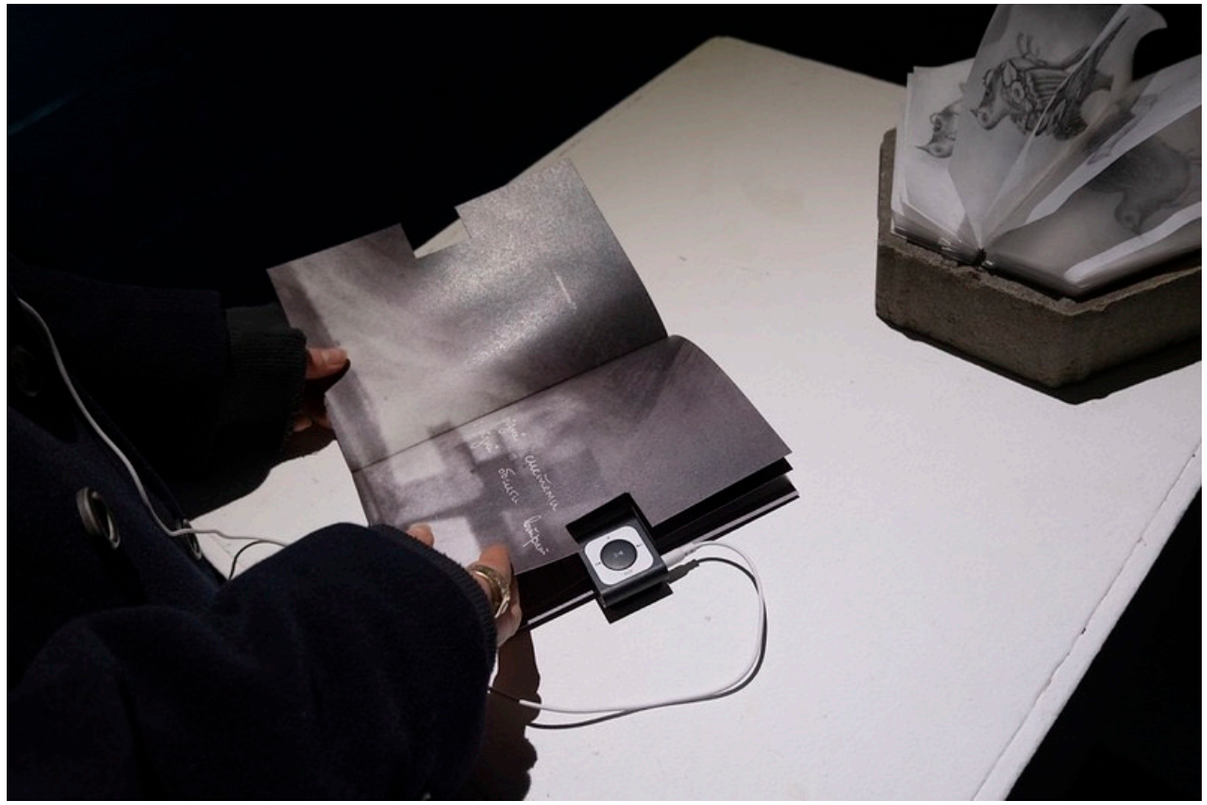
Curators:
Olga Polyak and Alona Karavai

Photo by Taras Telischak



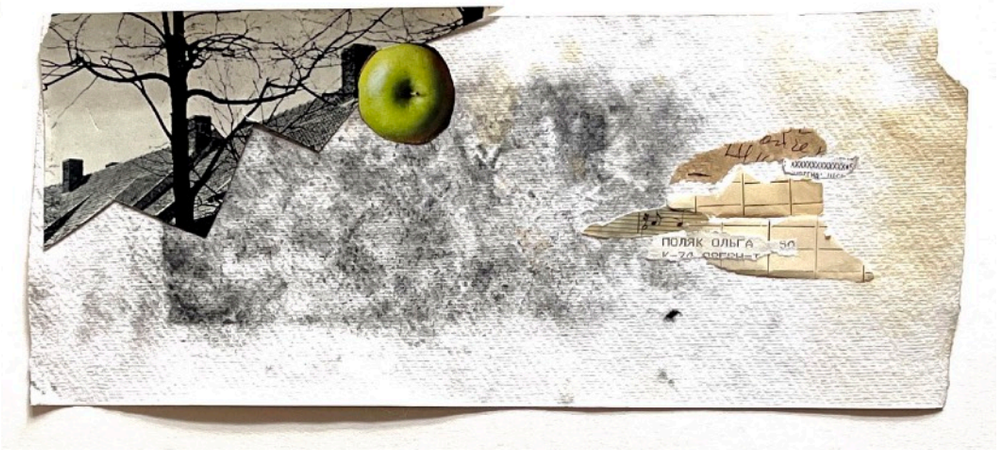












Poems
Вірші

A4 paper, acrylic markers, thermo-printing, mixed media collage.
2022

When the full scale invasion of Russia in Ukraine started I found that words hold more tension than I ever put into them. This series started from writing thoughts in the notebook, where I would write all the absurd thoughts that crossed my mind - things that made sense before, but in the new circumstances felt like weird fragments. In attempt to put it all back together I cut random words from newspapers, mix them and then choose what feels to have some logic in the new reality.



fra fra fra school of contemporary art
фра фра фра школа сучасного мистецтва

Frankivsk School of Contemporary Art emerged in response to the limitations of Ukraine's formal art education system — one still marked by rigid hierarchies, outdated curricula, and the dominance of traditional methodologies. The School does not aim to replace institutional education but rather to offer another way of learning and practicing art — one rooted in openness, collaboration, and reflection.

Its programs invite artists, curators, and educators to rethink what artistic education can be: a shared process of inquiry rather than a transfer of authority. Through workshops, collective research, and exhibitions, fra fra fra provides a space for testing ideas, building connections across regions, and fostering a community of practitioners who value critical thought and social engagement.

The School operates through a non-hierarchical structure, emphasizing practice-based learning, experimentation, and mutual support. It positions itself as both an educational platform and an evolving collective practice that seeks to redefine how art can be taught, shared, and experienced within the Ukrainian context.

The project was developed by Asortymentna Kimnata and supported by the European Union and Danish Youth House, whose backing has helped establish its cross-border collaborations and sustain its independent educational model.

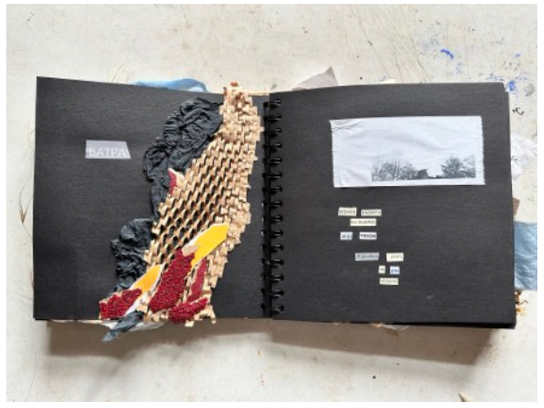
https://asortymentna-kimnata.space/fra-fra-fra/
https://asortymentna-kimnata.space/performatyvni-sesii-z-yaroslavom-futymskym/

2022-2025

Teachers:
Natalia Lisova
Stanislav Turina
Dasha Checushkova
Yaroslav Futymskyi
Clemens Pul
Anna Khvyl
Yurii Kruchak
Kateryna Yakovlenko
Oleksandra Kuschenko
Ludmyla Suschenia
Daryna Fes

Curators:
Alona Karavai
Olga Polyak
Rostyslav Koterlin

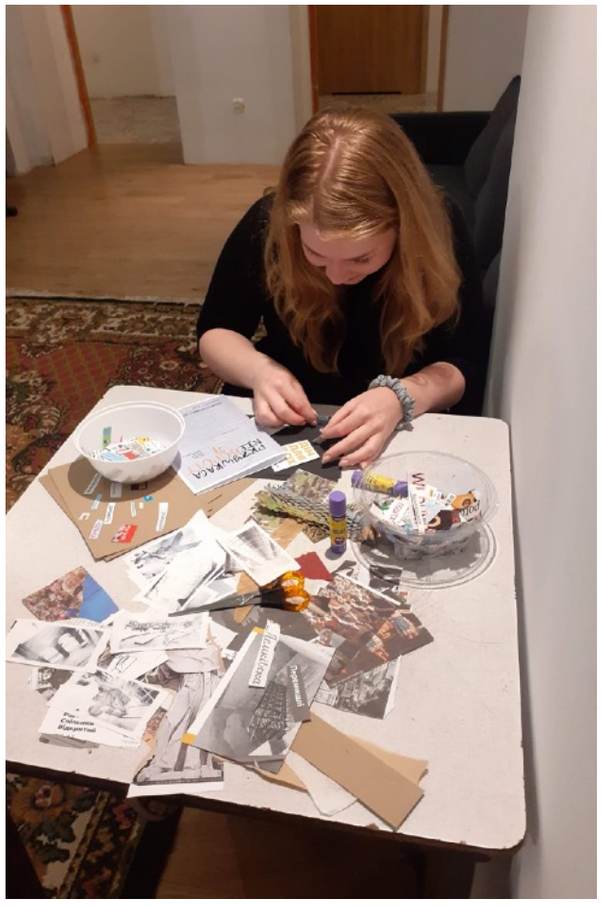






Home to go
Дім з собою

Immersive installation paper, acrylic markers, termo-printing, found objects, mixed media collage.
2023





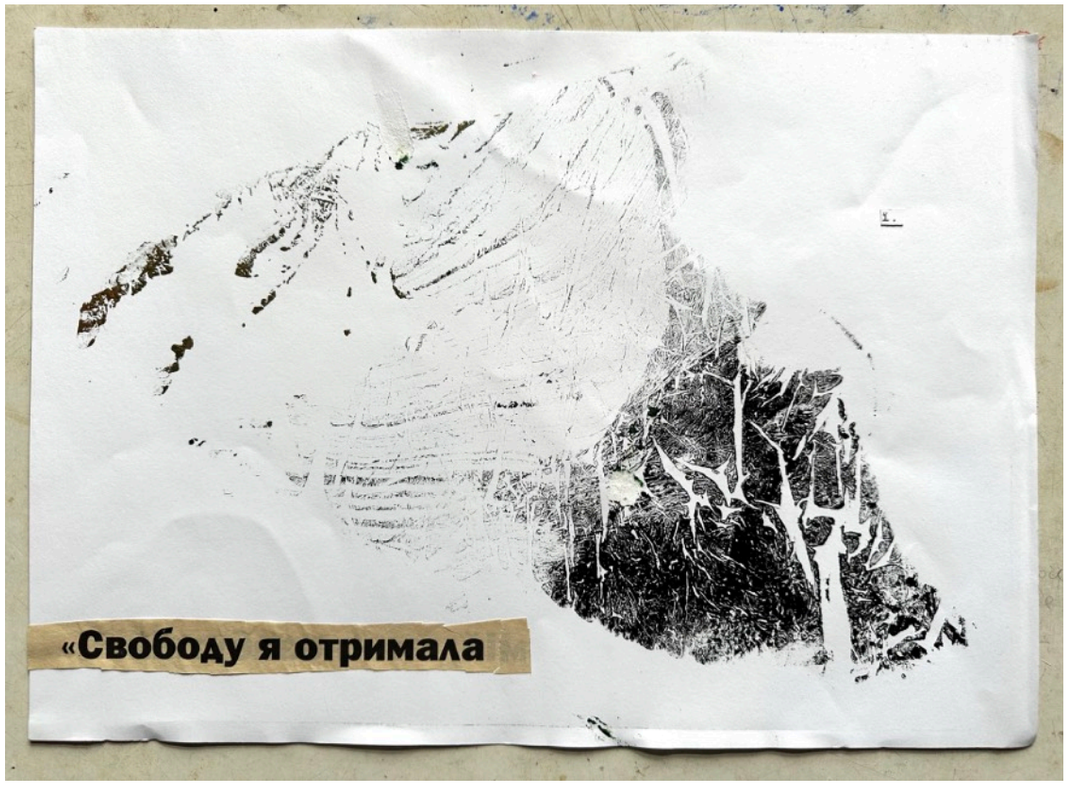


An art book and a series of (not quite) absurd poems presented as an immersive installation where I recreated the my working room with the invitation to concrete and add visitors works in the exhibition.

The work was created at the residence of the Ukrainian National House in Przemyśl where during the first moths of full scale invasion many refugees from Ukraine took shelter and found a temporary home.

The book and the diptych were based on the research of memories that served to form the concept of home and the cultural environment and landscapes of Przemyśl. Local found objects, newspapers, photo of landscapes that triggered memories from my home were used to create a connection between past and present.

Photo by Adam Yaremko







Traces of presence
Сліди присутності

Paper, oil based paint, hand printing
2020

I work with objects of natural origin as carriers of non-human experience and witnesses to human impact on the environment. These forms often serve as silent archives of interaction — what remains after contact, use, or destruction. Some of them are “posthumous masks” of trees cut down and steamed for reconstruction, others are prints of stones that have rested by the river for centuries, or boards once used to build a bridge connecting villagers across the water. At times, the prints emerge by chance from the very materials I use in the process. In such moments, I intervene minimally — adding short textual statements that weave my own experience with theirs, creating a dialogue between human and non-human memory.



Collective exhibitions
Svaya, Tymutopiapress, Lviv, Ukraine 2025
Return, Ukrainian house, Przemyśl, Poland, 2023
Body of city, Tysha, Chernivtsi, Ukraine, 2022
Memoria Fragments, Celula de arte, Bucharest, Romania, 2021
Memoria Fragments Asortymentna kimnata, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, 2021
30 words in a second, Sweet Art, Chernivtsi, Ukraine, 2017

Curated exhibitions and events
at Asortymntna kimnata
«Are they singing?», 2025
«Not an anxious exhibition», 2025
«Something that bears a complete external resemblance to something else», 2025
«Mörk tystnad / Dark Silence» part of «Mörk Flora» with Österängens konsthall, 2025
«Games with safety» part of «Sense of Safety» with Yermilow Center, 2024
«Somewhat darker days» 2024
«Cloud seeding», 2024

Curriculum vitae

olgastyle.polyak@gmail.com