

Olena Yanko

CV + Portfolio

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Olena Yanko
Kyiv 2025



I was born in 1989 in Netishyn,
Khmelnyskyi region, Ukraine.
I live and work in Kyiv, Ukraine.
Age: 35 years old

Artist Statement

Observing nature is as essential to me as air. In my work, I explore its vast spaces, the fleeting nature of moments, and the connection between the external world and the inner state of a person. Travel, especially watching landscapes through the window of a train or car, inspires me to create works that convey the dynamics of change, the play of light, and the depth of color.

I strive to capture not just places but sensations—the moments when nature seems to breathe, shift, and leave an emotional imprint in memory. My art is a search for harmony, an attempt to pause time and share what often goes unnoticed in the fast pace of life.

I am inspired by the works of Impressionists and contemporary artists who masterfully convey light, atmosphere, and the emotions of nature. I seek new shades, colors, and rhythms within the landscape, allowing each scene to unfold in its unique form. Through my work, I invite the viewer not just to look but to feel—to take a moment to pause, breathe deeply, and find a sense of calm amidst the chaos of the world.

Education:

2023 - ART Navigator Academy, an online course called Creative Career Compass.

2018 - Painting course by Makaryk A.M. Netishyn, Ukraine.

2013 - I obtained a Master's degree in Architecture from Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture, specializing in "Architecture of Buildings and Structures." Kyiv, Ukraine.

2012 - I obtained a Bachelor's degree in Architecture from Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture, specializing in "Architecture of Buildings and Structures." Kyiv, Ukraine.

2005 - Graduated with honors from Netishyn School of Arts, Art and Graphic Department. Teacher: A.M. Makaryk.

Exhibition activities

Personal exhibitions:

2005 - "My world in which I live",
Taras Shevchenko Regional Library for Children, Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine.
2005 - "The Beauty of Life", Museum of Books and Printing of Ukraine, Kyiv,
Ukraine.

Selected collective exhibitions:

2025 – Group exhibition “Creating Irpin” for the third anniversary of liberation, Lisova3, Irpin, Ukraine
2025 – Art project “Inside-Out”, 31Artspace, Lviv, Ukraine (collaborative project with S. Sobol and L. Volkovynska)
2025 - collective exhibition "Our Borsch" as part of the art project "Soul of Ukraine", literary-memorial museum-apartment of P.G. Tychyna, Kyiv, Ukraine.
2024 - art exhibition of the art project "The World through the Eyes of Artists", P.G. Tychyna's literary-memorial museum-apartment, Kyiv, Ukraine.
2024 - The final exhibition of the VIII Open Art Plein Air "Painted Irpin", Irpin Children's Art School named after Mykhailo Verikivskyi, Irpin, Ukraine.
2024 - "Bloom, Irpin - Blossom, Ukraine!", Park of Writers, Irpin, Ukraine.
2024 - "Meeting in the hole", NewArtStudio, Irpin, Ukraine.
2023 - "War and Peace", MODI ART&Wine gallery, Kyiv, Ukraine.
2023 - "My name is Ukraine", Former department store, Wittenberg, Germany.
2023 - "My name is Ukraine", St. Nicholas Church, Pritzwalk, Germany.
2023 - "My name is Ukraine", Municipal Library, Jüterborg, Germany.
2023 - "My name is Ukraine", District Administration, Perleberg, Germany.
2022 - "Ukraine and Ukrainians", MODI ART&Wine gallery, Kyiv, Ukraine.
2018 - "Colored Dreams", Art Plast Art Gallery, Netishyn, Khmelnytskyi region, Ukraine.

Awards:

June 2024 - The record of Ukraine for the largest number of murals in one location from the National Register of Records of Ukraine.

- Creation of murals at the Sviatoshynskyi orphanage in Kyiv.

September 2022 - Gratitude for selfless volunteer work and charitable assistance to the community of Irpin from the Mayor of Irpin O. Markushin and the Irpin Restoration Fund.

- Creating artistic murals "Flowers for hope" on the city's vandalized cars and buildings.

April 2022 - Acknowledgement for active life and public position, significant contribution to national and patriotic education and personal participation in the creation of the mural from the Khmelnytsky City Council. Mayor O. Symchyshyn.

- Creation of a patriotic mural "Ukraine will win" on the building of the city's central ASC.

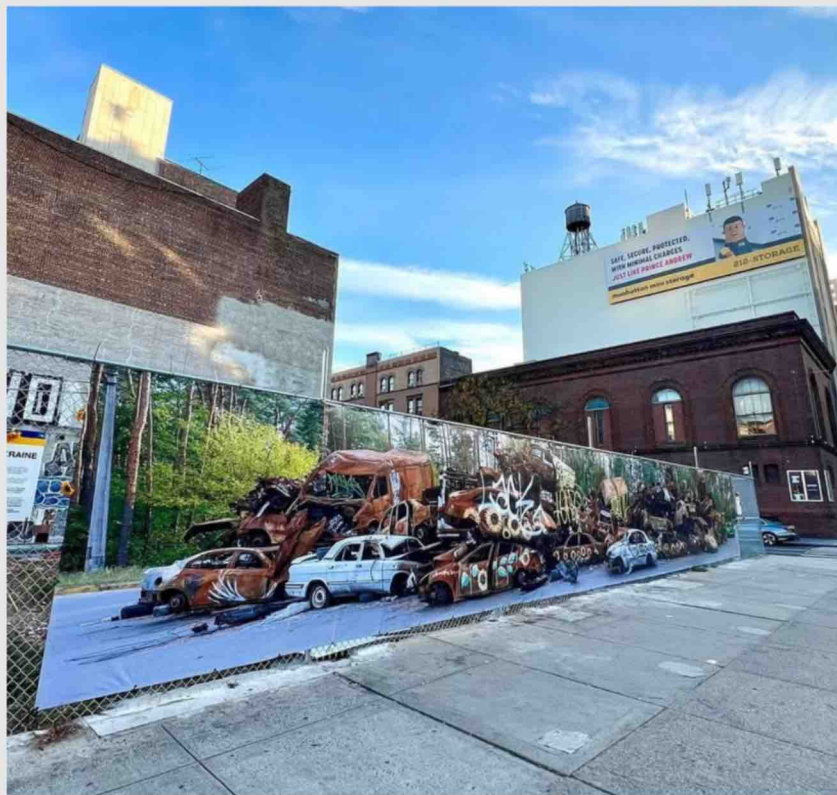
Illustrations for books:

2017 - «The Walking Monk»,
publishing house Samhita Press Inc.
2011 - “Kitty Purrer,” published by “Bedrykhiv Krai.”
2005 - "Fox and Crane" from the series "Think and Color",
Bedrykhiv Krai Publishing House.

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My works in the works of other artists

- Documentary by Irakli Chkhvirkia "Unbroken", 2023.
 - Photo project Please Don't Forget Us, New York, 2023
- In November 2023, New York photographer Phil Buehler created a large-scale photographic installation based on my mural and the Flowers for Hope project. The work consisted of 35 images and had a total length of 18.3 meters. The photo mural was installed on Second Avenue and 2nd Street in the Little Ukraine neighborhood of New York. The Please Don't Forget Us project drew attention to the consequences of war and the importance of remembering those affected. My mural became part of this significant visual narrative, gaining a new interpretation in the context of New York's urban art scene.



- The photo poster project by Ivanna Rubliuk was presented at the "Ukraiński tydzień w Gdańsku" (Ukrainian Week in Gdańsk), 2023.



- A painting by Ilya Yarovy, created at the Seventh All-Ukrainian Art Plein Air "Painted Irpin" named after Volodymyr Sydoruk, which became the cover of the plein air catalog.



Selected Media:

- **Forbes.** Michal Gromek. Using Blockchain To Pay For Reconstruction Efforts In Ukraine. 21september 2022 p.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michalgromek/2022/09/21/using-blockchain-to-pay-for-reconstruction-efforts-in-ukraine/?sh=4c962a8d7e96>

- **The Guardian.** David Smith in Washington. 'Please don't forget us': giant Ukrainian artwork arrives in New York. 17 Nov 2023

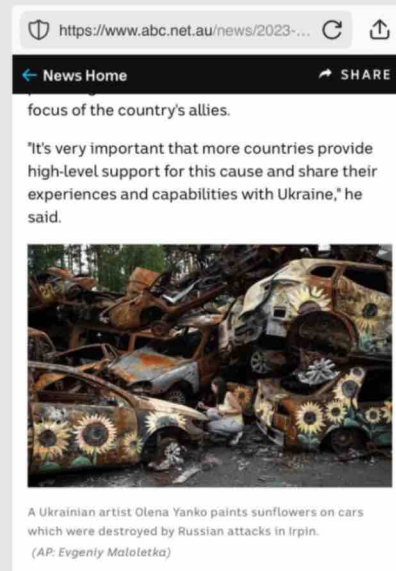
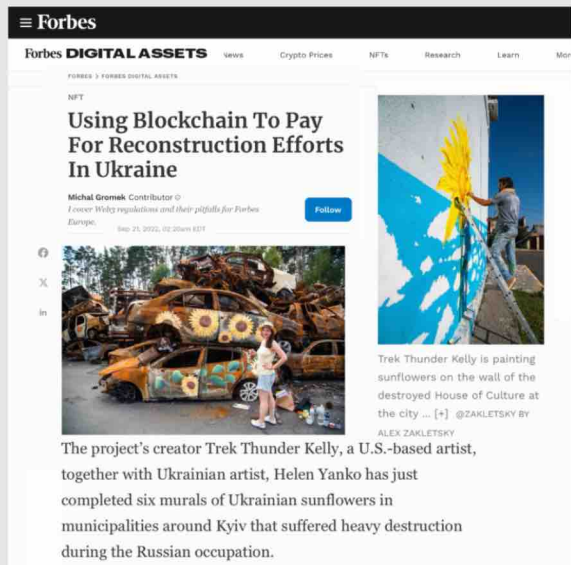
<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2023/nov/17/irpin-ukraine-car-cemetery-new-york>

- **Elephant.art.** Sunflowers and Survival: How Flowers for Hope Is Helping Ukraine. 19 серпня 2022

<https://elephant.art/sunflowers-and-survival-how-flowers-for-hope-is>

- **EURONews.** By Theo Farrant & AP. Flowers for Hope: artists paint sunflowers on destroyed vehicles in war-torn Irpin. 18 серпня 2022

<https://www.euronews.com/culture/2022/08/18/flowers-for-hope-artists-paint-sunflowers-on-destroyed-vehicles-in-war-torn-irpin>



- **Japannews.** Ayaka Kudo / Yomiuri Shimbun Correspondent. Volunteers paint flowers of hope in war-torn Ukraine. 13.08.2022

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/world/europe/20220813-51098/>

- **Der Nordschleswiger.** Amanda Klara Stephanie. Ukrainian artist Olena Yanko visiting Haderslev. January 31, 2023.

<https://www.nordschleswiger.dk/de/nordschleswig-hadersleben/ukrainische-kuenstlerin-olena-yanko-zu-besuch-hadersleben>

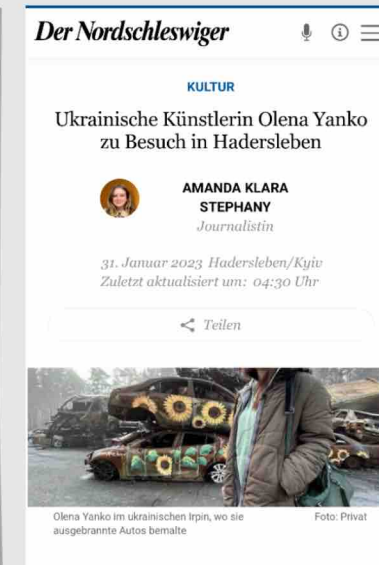
- **CNN Portugal.** Germão Oliveira and Teresa Abecasis. We went to war with weapons that do not kill anyone. February 23, 2023.

<https://cnnportugal.iol.pt/dossier/fomos-para-a-guerra-com-uma-armas-que-nao-mata-ninguem/63f4c94e0cf2cf9224fa00be>

- **National Geographic Japan.** The photo of the mural is printed on the cover and on the spread of pp. 40-41. June 2023 Volume 2, issue 6.

- **Nippon Television, Japan** - Interview in the evening news Zero News. November 6, 2024

- **Nippon Television, Japan** - Interview in the evening news Zero News. February 13, 2025



An abstract vertical artwork on the left side of the page, featuring fluid, swirling brushstrokes in various shades of blue and purple, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Series "Movement of the Universe"

The series "Movement of the Universe" was born from the desire to find peace amid the chaos of war. The paintings reflect an inner search for harmony in a constantly changing world. Olena Yanko conveys this state through flowing lines, rich colors, and the absence of sharp contours, which symbolize the fluidity of time and space.

At the heart of the works is the experience of forced displacement, where people leave their homes and the landscapes outside the window change at a frantic pace. Nature, once a source of inspiration, now dissolves in the flow of anxious thoughts and memories of loss. The artist seeks to stop this movement and capture a moment of silence on canvas – a sky without rockets, a land without destruction, a world in which peace reigns.

This series is the artist's personal refuge, her way of escaping from a reality filled with pain, and creating a dreamy space where nature offers hope and strength to move forward.



"The movement of the universe"
canvas, acrylic
70x70
2023

Olena Yanko



"Ukrainians have lost their sense of peace.
Some felt it as early as 2014, while others realized it only in 2022.

I walk up to the window, staring into the darkness, listening intently to every sound with the anxiety that at any moment, the sky might be torn by a siren, the buzz of a drone, or explosions. It's an atmosphere of uncertainty, where any moment can turn into a nightmare.

Yet, it's essential to find moments of calm within the chaos. In such moments, I create new hills. It's my way of organizing my emotions and finding harmony amidst the turmoil."

"Quiet sky"
Canvas, acrylic
50x40 cm
2023

Olena Yanko



«Nighttime peace of mind»
Canvas, acrylic
60x50 cm
2024

Olena Yanko



"The pink dawn"

Canvas, acrylic

40x60 cm

2024

Dead or alive... the earth.
Hills are like ocean waves, frozen for
eternity, lifting the strength of the land
toward the sky.
They are alive, though their movement is
imperceptible to the human eye.



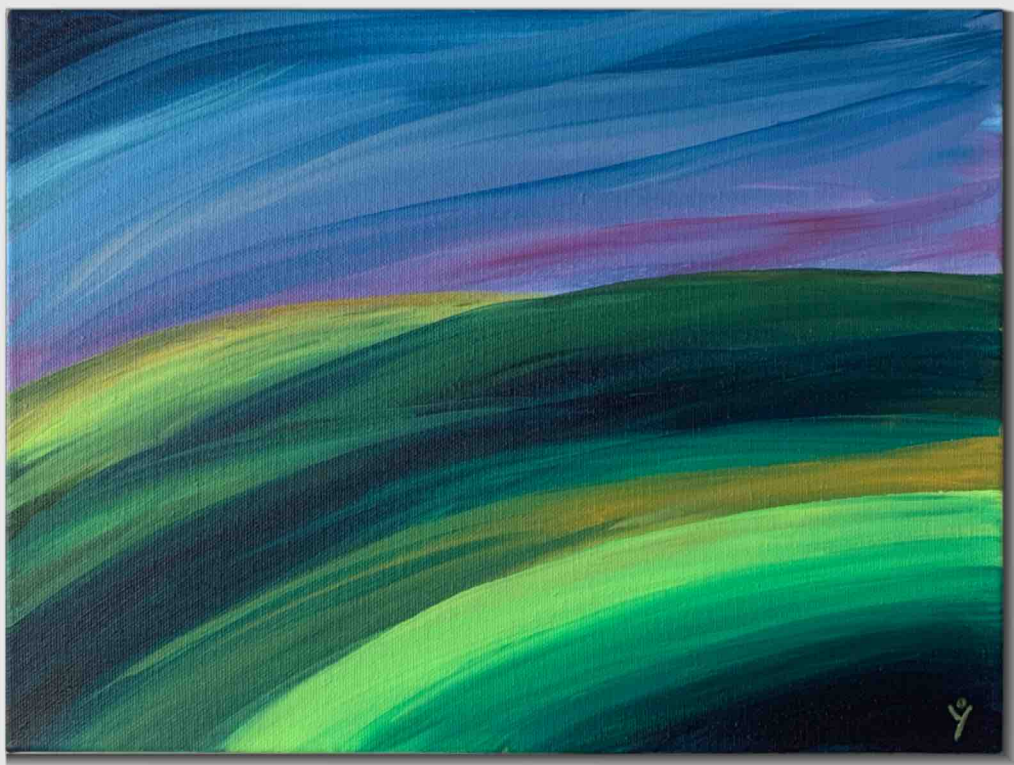
"Time lessness"

Canvas on fiberboard, acrylic

30x50 cm

2023

Olena Yanko



«Wind flows»
Canvas, acrylic
30x40 cm
2024



"Breath of the Universe"
Canvas, acrylic
40x50 cm
2024



Series "My Mountains"

"My Mountains" is a series of works that reflects the complex process of inner struggle and the search for one's true self. The mountains in these works symbolize the strength and resilience needed to break free from deep-rooted stereotypes, false beliefs, and convictions formed since childhood.

It is a journey toward shedding all that is unnecessary and discovering one's true desires and values.

The series encompasses various emotional nuances — from calm and harmonious colors to strong and intense tones, such as the red sky, which evokes the tension and drama of the transformation process. Sharp lines and vivid contrasts complement the smooth forms, highlighting both the struggle and the acceptance of inner strength. This series is about the path to discovering the true self, liberation from the limitations of the past, and the movement toward inner harmony.

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"Sun of hope"
Canvas, acrylic
60x50 cm
2024

Olena Yanko



"Under the Pink Sky"
Canvas, acrylic
105x130 cm
2024

Olena Yanko



The search for one's "self" through the imagery of the majestic Carpathian Mountains. Painted with broad, bold strokes, the artwork conveys the natural energy and tranquility offered by the mountain landscape. Soft transitions of green tones highlight the boundless beauty and power of nature, which inspires and helps free one from accumulated stereotypes and anxieties.

This painting is not just a landscape, but a metaphor for the journey to inner harmony, a symbol of escape from the mundane to a place where one can find deep inner peace and strength.

"Carpathians"
Canvas, acrylic
50x30 cm
2023

Olena Yanko



The painting "The clouds came" conveys the drama and power of internal struggle. The deep blue sky with storm clouds and heavy rain streams symbolizes the tension and dynamics of transformation. The vertical lines of the rain emphasize the intensity of the process, while the natural beauty of the green meadow with vibrant flowers below serves as a reminder of the pursuit of harmony.

The contrasts between the bold strokes of the sky and the soft shapes of the living nature below illustrate the challenging journey of shedding the constraints of the past and uncovering one's true values. The painting embodies the idea of struggle and the simultaneous acceptance of inner strength, highlighting the beauty of the journey toward self-discovery.

"The clouds came"
canvas, acrylic
55x30 cm
2023

Olena Yanko



"Tranquility with the Scent of Lavender"

Canvas, acrylic

40x60 cm

2024

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"Quiet dusk"
Tarpaulin, acrylic
60x100 cm
2024

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"Breath of Nature"
canvas, acrylic
65x65 cm
2024

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"Festive melody of nature"

canvas, acrylic

70 x 70 cm.

2024

From the archive of the Local History
Museum of the Hero City of Irpin,
Ukraine

Flowers for hope

Flowers for Hope is an art project that symbolizes hope and rebirth through the depiction of sunflowers – the symbol of Ukraine. The idea behind the project is to transform war-damaged objects into canvases for art, particularly painting over vehicles destroyed by military equipment and the walls of cities affected by the war.

The project was launched in 2022 in Irpin and Hostomel. Its primary goal is not only the aesthetic transformation of ruins but also to support the morale of people living in war conditions, as well as draw the world's attention to the consequences of Russian aggression.

Project Author:

Trek Kelly Tandler

Project Artists:

Trek Kelly Tandler

Olena Yanko

Project Coordinator:

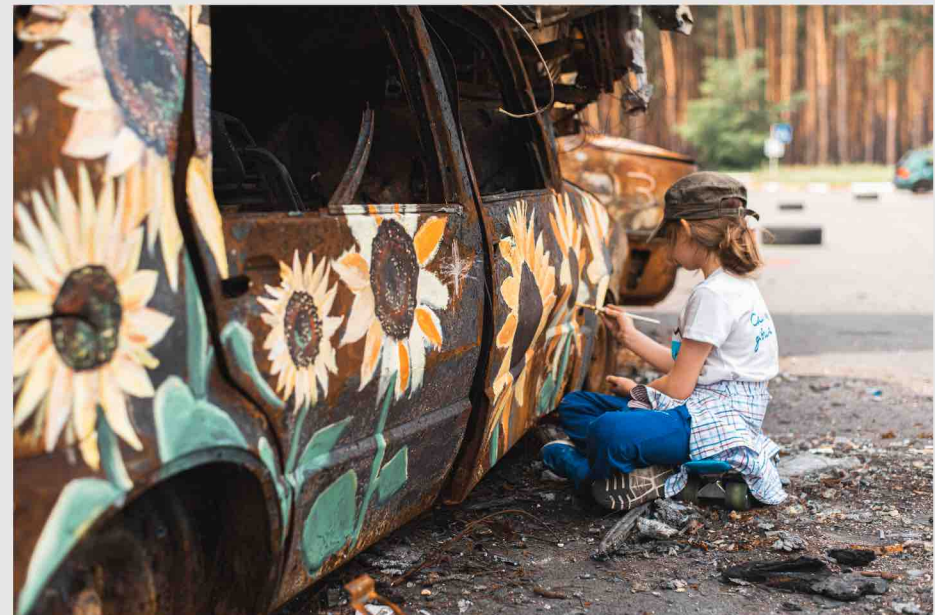
Oleksandr Zakletskyi

Magazine Spread, Pages 40-41
National Geographic Japan,
2023. Volume 29, Issue 6.



Car Cemetery, Irpin, Ukraine 2022

Artist: Olena Yanko





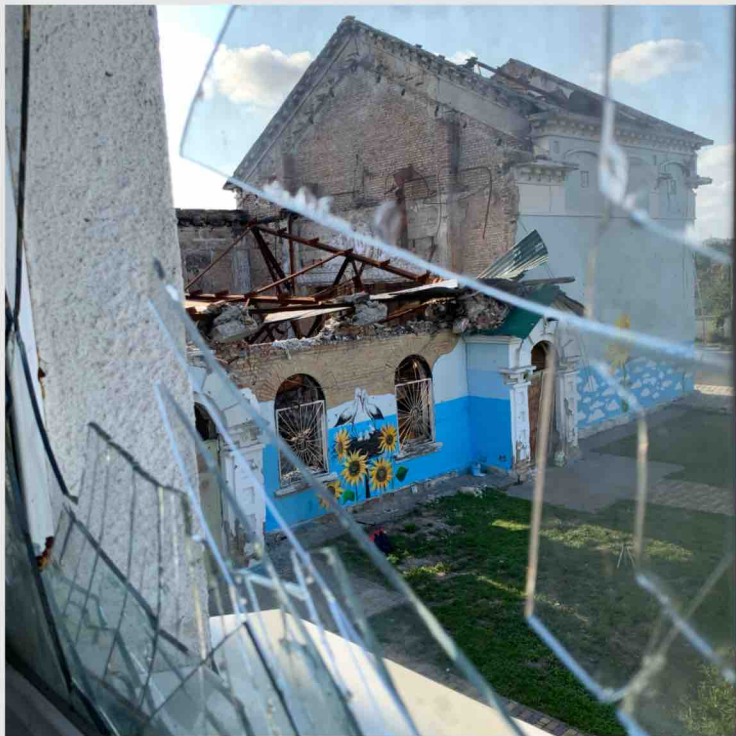
"Scorched Memory"

Digital Artwork

50x70 cm

Car Cemetery, Irpin, Ukraine, 2024

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Cultural House, Irpin, Ukraine
Artist: Olena Yanko
2022

Storks are caring parents that feed their chicks. They symbolize warriors who protect the peaceful population with their wings, giving them a chance at life. Sunflowers represent the sun, life, and hope, adding brightness to the composition and symbolizing fertility and prosperity.

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Conference Hall Irpin, 2023
Mural on a fence damaged by shrapnel.



An-2, Hostomel, Ukraine
2023



Cultural House "Four Lions," Hostomel, Ukraine
2024

Thank you!