



Daily

December 17 – January 7

Icon exhibition on ammunition boxes from Ukraine

This special exhibition consists of 25 icons that were painted on ammunition boxes by two Ukrainian icon masters, Oleksandr Klymenko and Sonya Atlantova. They have been painting the icons on ammunition boxes found at the frontlines since 2014.

These special icons are for sale, and the proceeds will go to healthcare projects in Ukraine.

The couple Oleksandr Klymenko (b. 1976) and Sonya Atlantova (b. 1981) began this art project in 2014. The icons on the remnants of ammunition boxes refer to the two sides of Ukraine's reality since 2014. On one side is the harshness, violence and devastation of war, on the other side is the longing for and belief in a heavenly reality that leads to wholeness and liberation from evil.

Oleksandr Klymenko and Sonya Atlantova want their work to be a sign of hope and to show that death and destruction do not have the last word. Their work depicts the transformation from signs of death to symbols of life. With this art project, the icon painters also have a humanitarian purpose. Proceeds from the sale of icons support a mobile hospital at the battle front. Now, funds are being raised to assist wounded soldiers and civilians in the process of their physical and spiritual recovery.

Also available during the exhibition is the book "One year of reporting from Kharkiv," featuring the columns of Professor of General Medicine in Kharkiv Prof. Olekssi Korzh on the effects of the war on health and health care in Kharkiv where many hospitals and health care institutions were affected by bombing. The columns were written in the period from March 2022 to March 2023. The book was published by the European Forum for Primary Care and columns were written during the period from March 2022 to March 2023. The book was published by the European Forum for Primary Care and is available online: ONE YEAR REPORTING FROM KHARKIV (euprimarycare.org)

Sunday, December 17, 14:30 hrs

Opening of the icon exhibition on ammunition boxes from Ukraine

The artists, Oleksandr Klymenko and Sonya Atlantova will talk about their work. In addition, a discussion is planned with the participation of the Ambassador of Ukraine Oleksandr Karasevych, and prof. dr. Alfons Brüning, a Dutch expert on religion and art. Ukrainian Mariia Oliinyk will also tell a personal story about healthcare in times of war.

The event will be complemented by Ukrainian songs performed by Ukrainian ensemble "Makivka".

Program

The meeting on Sunday December 17, starts at 2:30 p.m.

Word of welcome by Theo Andriessen

Greeting by Ambassador Oleksandr Karasevych

Presentation of the icon project by Sonya Atlantova and Oleksandr Klymenko

Wartime health care, a personal story by Mariia Oliinyk

Religious art in wartime by Prof. Alfons Brüning

Concert

Chairman of the day is Geert van Dartel, chairman of the board of IvOC and president of the Council of Churches in the Netherlands.

This exhibition is an initiative of the Stevenskerk and is organized in cooperation with the Ecumenical City Pastorate (OCP) and the Institute of Eastern Christian Studies (IvOC) in Nijmegen.

About the speakers

Sonya Atlantova and Oleksandr Klymenko are Ukrainian artists, both trained as icon painters at the Kyiv Art Academy. In 2014, they began their project: painting icons on lids of ammunition boxes. Proceeds from the sale of icons will benefit a mobile hospital at the front and counseling of wounded soldiers and civilians.

Theo Andriessen is director of the Stevenskerk.

Alfons Brüning is director of the Institute of Eastern Christian Studies (IvOC) in Nijmegen. He is also extraordinary professor of Orthodoxy and Peacebuilding at the PTHU/VU in Amsterdam. In his contribution he reflects on the question of the expressiveness of icons painted on material that refers to war and destruction.

Geert van Dartel is chairman of the board of the Institute of Eastern Christian Studies (IvOC) in Nijmegen and president of the Council of Churches in the Netherlands.

Mariia Oliinyk is associate professor at the National Medical University in Kharkiv. She received her doctorate in 2017 and worked in the rheumatology department of the hospital in Kharkiv. In 2022, she came to the Netherlands with her daughter because of the war. Mariia will speak about the impact of the war on health care in Kharkiv: "The war affects people in different ways. Somebody has to flee, somebody loses his house, somebody loses his friends or relatives, and somebody doesn't get healthcare on time and loses his life. It did not happen a long time ago it's happening now, every moment in Ukraine".

Oleksandr Karasevych is Ukraine's ambassador to the Netherlands.

This event is a part of Discover Ukraine Festival organized in Nijmegen. With a varied program for young and old, the Stevenskerk aims to bring the culture of Ukraine closer. Together with concerned organizations and volunteers, we express our support in the fight against Russian aggression.

More events at: <https://www.stevenskerk.nl/agenda>