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ARTISTS RESPOND: Ukrainian Art and The Orange Revolution

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THE UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE OF MODERN ART OFFERS
UNIQUE PRESENTATION OF UKRAINIAN ART

Chicago, IL. In December 2004 we saw the world focused squarely on the elections in a country that is seldom the subject of national or global headlines. The country is Ukraine and nearly one year ago, the people of Ukraine asserted their right to not only free elections but fair elections. The historical significance of what transpired captured the hearts and minds of all who watched – from the attempted poisoning of the democratic candidate to the mass demonstrations in Kyiv's Independence Square. For two weeks the world witnessed the power of a human spirit that desires freedom, fairness and democracy. Witnesses sat in awe of the peaceful and organized manner with which hundreds of thousands united for the cause of democracy. People poured in from all regions of Ukraine as did Ukrainians from around the world. In freezing temperatures, tent cities were built and food was distributed. Rock stars performed and people blogged the events real time from the streets via email and text messages. In the end, the demonstrators, draped in the Orange color of their embattled candidate, prevailed, and Victor Yuschenko was elected President of Ukraine.



Kyiv, Independence Square

Photo obtained from:
<http://www.kiddofspeed.com/orange-revolution/orangerevolution.html>

Artists Respond

Recognizing the historical significance of what was transpiring, the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago, in conjunction with the Center for Contemporary Art (CCA) in Kyiv, will host an exhibition of contemporary art that blossomed from the streets of the revolution. During the demonstrations the Director of the CCA in Kyiv (<http://www.cca.kiev.ua>), Yuriy Onuch, flung open the doors of the Center to young artists demonstrating in Independence Square and encouraged them to utilize the resources of the center to experiment and create utilizing the energy of the revolution as their muse. For several weeks a group of young artists utilized the facilities at the CCA to capture, explain and interpret the momentous occasion of the Orange Revolution.

The result was nothing short of extraordinary. ***Artists Respond: Ukrainian Art and The Orange Revolution*** showcases the work of this new generation of Ukrainian artists. The exhibit not only captures the significance of a major historical event but the works ask difficult questions surrounding Ukraine's past, who it is now and how it will move forward. The compositions in the exhibition combine to explore these questions and others such as Ukraine's role in the West and how it manages its relationship with the East. The exhibition offers works in many media including painting, sculpture and mixed media.

Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art



Labyrinth

Kyrylo Hryniiov & Yaroslav Kolomyichuk
acrylic on synthetic canvas

We are pleased to announce that The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (UIMA) has joined together with the Center for Contemporary Art in Kiev to bring this exhibition of revolutionary art to Chicago. In December 2005, UIMA will present “Artists Respond: Ukrainian Art and The Orange Revolution” - the first exhibition of Ukrainian Revolutionary art shown in North America.

The exhibition is being co-curated by Yulia Vaganova, Director for the Center of Contemporary Art in Kiev, and Nicholas Sawicki, Art Chairman at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art.

“Artists Respond: Ukrainian Art and The Orange Revolution” is made possible by a grant from the Heritage Foundation.

You are invited to come and view the works of a new generation of artists in an exclusive showing of “Artists Respond: Ukrainian Art and The Orange Revolution” on Friday, December 2, 2005.

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About the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art

The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art was founded by Dr. Achilles Chreptowsky to preserve and promote the knowledge and appreciation of contemporary Ukrainian art and culture. It has served as an artistic anchor in Chicago's West Town community for more than 30 years, providing world-class art exhibitions, concerts, literary readings, and educational and cultural exchanges.

About the Center for Contemporary Art, Kyiv, Ukraine

The Center of Contemporary Art in Kyiv was established in 1993 as part of the international SCCA network. The Center seeks to encourage the development of an artistic community by enabling artists, art agencies and professionals to undertake their own projects, participate in exhibitions of contemporary art, obtain information and establish local and international contacts. Since February 1999, the center has been operating as the Center of Contemporary Art - an Independent International Charitable Foundation, which is a co-founder of the International Contemporary Art Network Association (ICAN) and is registered in the Netherlands.

About the Heritage Foundation

The Heritage Foundation was created to support Ukrainian institutions such as the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art. The Foundation supports numerous organizations including schools, museums and churches. The Foundation also supports the growth and development of democracy in Ukraine.

Visiting the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art

UIMA is located at 2320 W. Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL telephone 773-227-5522. The Institute is open Wednesday through Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Additional information is available at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art website at www.uima-art.org.