



UKRAINIAN ART CENTER NEWS

THE UNSTOPPABLE FORCE OF THE ARTS

A Quarterly Newsletter | Issue No. 7 Winter 2018

Ola Rondiak Exhibition

Provided by artist

Born in the United States to a Ukrainian family, Ola Rondiak began her professional life as a social worker, counsellor and psychotherapist, with advanced degrees in the field of psychology before turning to art. Moving to Ukraine with her husband in 1995, Ola embarked on family life and started painting and sculpting, working internationally in studios in Kyiv and New York.

A prolific self-taught artist with incredible personal drive and enthusiasm, Ola derives inspiration for her canvases and other creations from her personal experiences of living in Ukraine as a woman, wife and mother. Having lived through the tumultuous events of Ukraine's recent history – the Orange Revolution and the Revolution of Dignity in 2014 – Ola also draws on the collective Ukrainian

living in a newly independent 1990's Ukraine.

Ola's work has been exhibited in numerous solo exhibitions throughout Ukraine, USA, and Europe, with her most recent exhibitions including the US Embassies in Kyiv and Rome, The Ukrainian Institute of America in NYC, and the Delaware Contemporary Museum in Wilmington, DE.

Currently her works can be seen at Zorya Fine Art Gallery in Greenwich, CT and the Honchar Museum in Kyiv (November 8, 2018 through January 2019) in a special tribute to the five-year anniversary of Maidan. In December 2018



memory of WWII, Stalin's Iron Curtain and more ancient history, as well as the present backdrop of what is happening in Ukraine.

Emotions resonate in Rondiak's paintings as her family history intertwines with Ukrainian history and tradition. Her iconographic portraiture of Ukrainian women depicts their determined and indomitable spirit and mixes the styles of pop art, folklore and icons of the Byzantine period. Ola's latest series "Identity, Interrupted" stems from her experience of growing up in the USA with a Ukrainian identity and how this identity was challenged when she began



her works will be exhibited at Context Miami with Tauvers Gallery International.

Now with eagerness and great pleasure UKRAINIAN ART CENTER in Los Angeles is announcing that on August 25, 2019 during the celebration of Ukrainian Independence at Ukrainian Culture Center, our community and all honored guests will have the opportunity to view the graceful, full of love and feelings for the homeland, artistic works of OLA RONDIAK. Also, each one of you will have a unique



opportunity to communicate with the artist in person, and hear her comments and projection on her art work during the concert.

With great impatience we await the arrival of OLA RONDIAK with her original, delving on the history of Ukrainian women, exhibit

and are so pleased that we are able to bring to you new impressions and emotions from contemporary Ukrainian art!

We are looking forward to seeing you at the OLA RONDIAK EXHIBITION and CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE OF UKRAINE at U.C.C. on August 25th, 2019.

A Word From the President

A HEART FELT THANKS TO ALL OF YOU - OUR SUPPORTERS Who at this special time of the year, when we celebrate the Birth of our Redeemer and greet the New Year with resolutions for setting our lives in order, let us also Celebrate All of You that have supported our Arts Organization by participating in UAC'S Artistic Programs and Donating Financially to make Ukrainian Art Center a true Cultural Treasure of Los Angeles.

With your support we have just completed a very successful Tribute to Kvitka - Flower of Ukraine and with your continued support we plan to present the ready Kvitka Scenario to our neighboring communities.

2019 will be a Very Exciting Year for UAC with growing participation and support of our Community!

On February 17, 2019 let's celebrate the Centennial of Our Very Own JACK PALANCE with a cocktail reception, his bio and film clips and a Thank-You Get Together for our Members and Supporters!

On April 7th 2019 Ukrainian Art Center joins Ukrainian Culture Center to celebrate and exhibit the World Renown PYSANKSA at the Annual Pysanka Festival. We are sure all of UAC Supporters will mark the date and invite their friends for the Pysanka Celebration. Make sure you stop by UAC PYSANKA EXHIBIT to get a warm hug as a thank you for your participation and support!

August 25th all Ukrainians celebrate the Anniversary of Independence of Ukraine at the Ukrainian Culture Center.

Ukrainian Art Center in collaborative program celebrating Ukrainian Women through the ages with OLA RONDIAK, a celebrated Ukrainian artist living in Kyiv but will be in attendance, with a Special Exhibition of her inspiring art works.

And as I am thanking all of you, I must include the outstanding Board of Directors of Ukrainian Art Center. Bravo to All! The comments from many of you, our members and supporters, say it all.



THANK YOU AND ONWARD TO OUR GOAL IN 2019.

Daria Chaikovsky
President

Tribute to Kvitka Cisyk "Flower of Ukraine"

By Luba Poniatyszyn Keske

LOS ANGELES - On Sunday, September 16th, the Ukrainian Art Center presented an original bi-lingual artistic production honoring the late Ukrainian-American singer Kvitka Cisyk. The dramatic play was written in Ukrainian by the Artistic Core Director for the Ukrainian Art Center, Victoria Kuzina, and translated into English by Julia Michaels and Luba Keske. Ms. Kuzina narrated the play in Ukrainian and George Yemetz in English.

A plethora of young local acting, dancing and musical talents emerged as the production progressed:

Maxim Kuzina - recitation of L. Kostenko's poem - "Wings Olenka Kaspersky - violin solo "I will go to the Distant Hills"
Margaryta Kuzina - performed "A Campfire at Dusk" and "Kolomyika"

Asya Gorska - sang "Two Colors" and "The Sleeping City"
Uliana Malyniak - sang "You Light Up My Life" and "O' My Mountain Peak"

Oleg and Natalia Loparovy - performed a staged dance to Kvitka's recording of "A Song to the Moon"

Finale sung by entire Ensemble - "I will go to the Distant Hills"

On a sunny California Sunday afternoon, over one hun-

dred Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian guests gathered at the transformed Ukrainian Culture Center, where they were treated to an unexpected and heart-felt glimpse into the life of the beloved Kvitka Cisyk. Through narration, music, dance and video montages we experienced Kvitka's fascinating childhood, teen-age years and adulthood as we followed her life and amazing career until her tragic untimely death in 1998.

As the play unfolded, we learned that Kvitka Cisyk, aka Kacey, was born to Ukrainian immigrant parents, Wolodymyr and Iwanna, who survived WWII and eventually settled in New York. Her father was a virtuoso violinist, and Kvitka became his student at five years of age. She excelled as a violinist which eventually garnered her a scholarship to the State University of N.Y. However, during her early years, Kvitka also loved to sing. Her genetic musical proclivity was first noticed in Plast during summer camps where she created and led a musical ensemble "Nightingales." After one year at the State University her focus changed from instrumental to vocal. Offered a scholarship to Mannes College of Music, Kvitka followed her heart and eventually became a classically trained singer achieving success in popular music, blues, opera and Ukrainian folk.

Kvitka performed in many venues, and recorded with a number of world-renowned singing artists, but her biggest success was achieved as the voice and persona of the Ford Motor Company. Over 20 billion people heard Kvitka sing "Have you driven a Ford lately." Kvitka's amazing coloratura voice and boundless energy were soon recognized by other iconic American companies, such as McDonalds and Coca Cola.



UAC Organizing Committee

And then, Hollywood beckoned. However, her shot at fame was derailed by an unscrupulous song writer/producer. Her demo "You Light up My Life" became part of the soundtrack of the movie by the same name. Although it was Kvitka's voice on the award-winning song, she received

no screen credit or recognition for her work at the Oscar Ceremony. Heartbroken and disappointed, yes...but not for long. These unfortunate events caused Kvitka to refocus her energies back to her original love...her Ukrainian roots and music. Using her own money and the combined talents of her husband, family and friends, each accomplished in their own area of expertise, no expense was spared for the arrangement and orchestration for Kvitka's albums "Songs of Ukraine," released in 1980 and "Two Colors," released in 1989.

Kvitka's dream to tour Ukraine with her beloved music in a series of concerts was shattered by a diagnosis of breast cancer which she bravely battled for seven years with her Husband and young son constantly by her side. But Kvitka's songs, which carried her soul entwined in her mesmerizing voice, did make their way to Ukraine where they will live on for all time in the land of her ancestors.

An "OMG" moment towards the end of the program was provided by Kvitka's own soulful rendition of "The Cranes Are Flying." The audience rose and stood in silence, leaving few dry eyes in a hushed hall.

After the finale, Daria Chaikovsky, Founder and President of the Ukrainian Art Center of Los Angeles, graciously thanked the guests for their support of the Art Center's second major stage production as well as the Creative Ensemble, the Board and volunteers.

Technical Support: Maxim Kuzin, Iryna and Andriy Korytn, Olga Starow and Dr. Andriy Olesiuk



Raffle Winner Dada Kastaniuk

Guest Impressions

Doroha Pani Darka and Members of the Ukrainian Art Center.

Thank you for arranging such a beautiful concert in honor of songstress, Kvitka Cisyk. It was a fitting tribute to the beautifully talented daughter of Ukraine and we enjoyed it tremendously. The level of talent exhibited by the young performers, singers, musicians and dancers was extraordinary and the effort put into this production was fully

appreciated by everyone.

We look forward to your next event and wish you much success in your endeavors.

Sincerely,
Halyna Pruc Penman

--

Stefko and I both enjoyed it so very much. The singing was amazing, amazing – those 3 girls/women have voices that are extraordinary. The videos and interviews with various persons, and Kvitka's story (we didn't know of the issue with the song "You Light Up My Life", for example) left much to think about and discuss on our ride home.

The story of her family etc., and her fame in Ukraine brought back memories.

The stage was beautifully decorated.

Darka, you looked very elegant, - you always speak well. And, the role of artistic director suits you, most definitely. I did shed some tears during "Sirily u Sumerkakh" (Shimmering in the Twilight) – it was so moving. And, the a cappella rendition of "Oy Vershe, Miy Vershe (O' My Mountain Peak) had everyone hypnotized – not a pin drop could be heard.

Thank you – Very much—
Christine & Stefko Schmotolocha

In Appreciation of Art Donations to UAC

Ukrainian Art Center has received several fine art donations for which we would like to thank the generous donors:

Mr. Taras Novak donated a very fine and large oil, "Harvest in Ukraine" from the collection of his parents and original community organizers Mykola & Nadia Novak with several smaller but interesting paintings.

Mr. Alexander Chernis donated an excellent acrylic copy of a well known painting by Ilya Repin, original dated 1891, "Reply to Sultan Mehmed IV by Zaporozhian Cossacks or known by "Manifesto by Cossacks."

Ukrainian Art Center is grateful for their kind donations and look forward to acquiring other art works which will create a serious collection of Ukrainian Art.

Spotlight on Andriy Korotun

Conducted by Olenka Krupa Griffies

Andriy Korotun lives in Los Angeles and works as a Film Editor for White Gorilla Media in San Diego. We chose to spotlight him because he helped us with our recent Kvitka Cisyk event. He likes working with UAC because he shares our common mission, which is to promote and share Ukrainian art beyond our Ukrainian community.

His latest project is a documentary about the rehabil-

itation of Ukrainian soldiers. Recently he presented this documentary in Ukraine at a Forum by Ukrainian veterans. In attendance were many politicians, consuls, international members and Ukrainian President Poroshenko.

Andriy spent 3 years working on this film, and is currently touring and showing his documentary in the United States. He plans to submit it for consideration at documentary Film Festivals.

I had an opportunity to meet with him for a short interview to hear more about his project and learn more about him. Following is a recap...



Andriy Korotun with President Poroshenko

Interview questions:

1. *What is your favorite word?*

My favorite motto is "Do what you can't". What that means to me is that when I take on projects that I don't think I can do, once I start I realize that they become very doable.

My favorite word is "diamond", because it is the strongest stone and is perfect. It reminds me of excellence, which I strive for in making movies.

2. *What is your least favorite word?*

Hypocrisy.

3. *What turns you on?*

Music - I can't live without it. Especially drum bass.

4. *What turns you off?*

Bad weather - which is why I chose Los Angeles.

5. *What sound do you love?*

Rain.

6. *What sound do you hate?*

Sirens - they are very annoying.

7. *What is your favorite curse word?*

F***

8. *What profession other than yours would you like to at-*

tempt?

Screen writing.

9. *What profession would you not like to do?*

Farming.

10. *If heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the pearly gates?*

I tend to take a scientific approach to the afterlife, and tend to focus on the Now more than the afterlife. I believe in humanity and that all people have good in them. They start out as vessels full of gold (the good), and as life goes on dirt is introduced into the vessel. What matters is how much we care about each other, our kids, our grandkids, and how we show this today. I believe that if we focus on the afterlife, we may be missing opportunities for caring in the present.

Interview with DakhaBrakha

Interview by Olenka Krupa | Photos by Danuta Lopuszynska

DakhaBrakha is the latest sensation from Ukraine, although they have been around since 2004. It is a Ukrainian folk quartet, an experimental group self-described as Ethno-chaos, and they will be performing at the Ace Hotel on Thursday Sept. 27th.

The four members are Marko Galanevych, Olenka Tsybulska, Iryna Kovalenko, and Nina Garenetska. The leader and producer is Vladyslav Troitskyi. They are winners of the Sergey Kuryokhin Prize in 2009.



On September 26, DakhaBrakha graciously agreed to an interview with UAC. The interview was between Olenka Krupa and Marko Galanevych. Following is a summary...

1. *Where, when, and how did you meet up?*

The ladies knew each other from childhood and sang together. They met Marko and created DakhaBrakha in 2004 at the Kyiv Center of Contemporary Art “DAKH”, under avant-garde theatre director Vladyslav Troitskyi.

2. *Where do you live now?*

Mostly in Kyiv but we spend about 3 months of the year in America.

3. *I know you have been in Los Angeles before, can you describe your experience?*

We have gotten a very warm reception in Los Angeles and are very impressed with the state of the arts and the Ukrainian community here. The Ukrainian Cultural Center was very gracious during our last visit to Disney Hall. We find the level of sophistication in music and the arts to be at a very high level and we are happy that our music is appreciated here.



4. *How did you come up with your very unique and authentic musical style? You call it ethno-chaos. Where do you get inspiration?*

Based on our Ukrainian heritage, we pull together from different folk music and songs, and try to infuse new life into traditional music and song. Then we experiment with them and try to come up with something new and interesting.

5. *In some of your songs I recognize melodies, like Shchedryk, but the words are unfamiliar to me - is that on purpose?*

We like to use pieces of less-recognized but older music and songs, but will integrate some better known pieces like Shchedryk. We also use more archaic words, an older dialect, which many people in Ukraine also do not recognize or understand. We take many songs sung by Babtsi (Grandmothers) in an older version of Ukrainian and try to incorporate them into our musical pieces.

6. *You seem to have many people following you - When did you realize you were famous? How did it change you?*

We credit the work we did for David Beckham as our breakout into bigger things. At this point we do consider ourselves well-known, but don't think it has changed us personally in any significant way. However, we find ourselves

being influenced by American Blues, Soul and Jazz and are finding inspiration there.

7. Do you have families? Do they travel with you? Do your kids know you are famous?

We are all married, and three of us have children. They don't usually travel with us unless they are very young, but in the future we plan to bring them along.

8. Marko - why are you the only one not wearing a hat?

I had one made because the ladies were wearing them, but I don't find it works for me.



9. The name of your band is Give and Take - what does that mean to you?

What we take is energy from the homeland, and what we give back is our musical interpretation of that energy.

10. How did you get to do the soundtrack to Fargo?

The Producers called and asked permission to use our music in their films.

11. Your latest disc is Shliakh/The Road - how would you describe it?

The music is different. In these times of difficulty in Ukraine, we visited many different regions of Ukraine and tried to organically use the different songs to bring people together in light of the occupation - including Krim and Luhansk. This was our road (Shliakh) between the people and we hope it brings unity.

12. Is there anything you would like to say to our Los Angeles community?

We would like to thank the Ukrainian community for their support in these hard times. The people of Ukraine are very grateful and aware of the strong support from America and we believe in the idea of unity and peace in the homeland.

13. What can we expect next?

We are working on a new album currently and will be playing 4 new songs at our concert at the Ace Hotel in Los Angeles. After that we have a big tour in Ukraine, followed by a tour in France. We return to America in April.

For more info about DakhaBrakha, check out their website dakhabrakha.com.ua

Ukrainian Art Center Matters

Dear Friends of UAC,

We are very fortunate at this time to have in the Ukrainian community and part of Ukrainian Art Center LA very creative and talented people. By now you know, UAC'S mission is to present music, visual art, theatre, dance and literature with passion and dedication to the community at large and to share the beauty of Ukrainian culture with all.

UAC is dedicated to engaging our community in appreciation and pursuit of all Ukrainian Arts. Our non-profit organization remains steadfast in its commitment to ensure the programming for everyone to enjoy.

Your support of our growing arts community is essential and today we ask you to join with all of our Board Members in making an annual contribution to UAC in order to continue and strengthen our work.

You can go directly to our website, UkrainianArtCenterSoCal.org and donate on the secure on-line giving platform or please send in your 100% tax deductible year-end contribution to our mail address. Thank you so much for your consideration!

Daria Chaikovsky,
President

Save the Date

World famous actor and singer Jack Palance will be honored on Feb 17th at UCC. Please save the date and join UAC for a festive and informative program featuring clips from his work. Born Volodymyr Palahniuk, this Ukrainian Oscar winner deserves to be remembered. More details to follow...



During the Holiday Season, more than ever, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. And in this spirit we say, simply but sincerely...
Thank you and Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Art Center

З Різдвом Христовим і Новим Роком, прийміть найкращі побажання та щіру подяку за Вашу підтримку українського мистецтва в Лос Анджелес.

Дирекція Центру Українського Мистецтва



UkrainianArtCenterSoCal.org
WE INVITE YOU TO OUR WEBSITE

Tell us your story, your favorite memory of us. What have you seen that inspires you?
Sign up for our newsletter, view us on Facebook (facebook.com/UkrainianArtCenterLA)

THE HISTORY OF THE UKRAINIAN ART CENTER

Based in Los Angeles, California. UAC, Ukrainian Art Center is a non-profit community organization. It was initiated by Daria Chaikovsky together with a group of like minded people in 1986 to preserve, promote and develop the Ukrainian arts in Los Angeles and California. Its initial goals reflect its present plan to create a new Ukrainian Museum in Los Angeles and to develop cultural and educational programs, alongside festivals and exhibitions. Mrs. Chaikovsky worked tirelessly with the UAC Board alongside her own business, presenting folk festivals, lectures, workshops and community projects on a small

scale, consistently providing a much needed resource for the local area. Over the years UAC was the main focal point for Ukrainian arts and culture on the West coast and involved people from all ages and backgrounds including non-Ukrainians. During these fruitful years, the local city council and private patrons funded its activities including regular Annual Easter Pysanka and Holiday Yalynka events, exhibitions, concerts and more, encouraging many diverse groups and individuals to explore the richness of Ukrainian Culture.

Become a Member of UAC If you enjoyed any of UAC programs/events like Maidan, Road to Freedom, Pysanka Festival, Museum Fundraiser Auction, Magestic Woman-Lesia Ukrainka, and other events and workshops over the years, you are invited to become Member of UAC and take part in development or have the opportunity to help the organization grow. A Ukrainian background is not necessary - just a passion for and a need to learn about Ukrainian contemporary arts and folk arts. You will work closely with our artists, board directors and other members. We could use your help and expertise in running future programs. **Email:** ukrainianartcenter@gmail.com | **Tel:** 818-635-8999 | **Website:** ukrainianartcentersocal.org | **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/UkrainianArtCenterLA "Ukrainian Art Center Los Angeles"

Newsletter The Board worked together to create a newly formatted newsletter. Previously several editions of the UAC Newsletters were published and after a break has reemerged in its new form and is available online. The UAC is run by a newly formed Board, each bringing with them unique skills and life experience that enriches the organization with a true commitment to developing its long term goals.

"The Ukrainian Art Center News" Editorial Group: Daria Chaikovsky, Editor in Chief; Olenka Krupa Griffies, Editor and designer; Ben Britten, Designer

Contributors: Olenka Krupa Griffies, Daria Chaikovsky, Luba Keske / Printing by Peter Brecko

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Website: www.ukrainianartcentersocal.org | **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/UkrainianArtCenterLA "Ukrainian Art Center Los Angeles"



UKRAINIAN ART CENTER
ЦЕНТР УКРАЇНСЬКОГО МИСТЕЦТВА
4315 Melrose Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90029