

Slava Salyuk: Geography

An Exhibition and Sale of Contemporary Neckwear Design

March 18 to April 2, 2017

Reception for the Artist: Saturday, March 18, 6 – 8 PM

The Ukrainian Institute of America 2 East 79th Street New York, NY 10075

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NEW YORK — Art at the Institute is pleased to announce *Slava Salyuk: Geography*, a selling exhibition presenting thirty original neckwear creations by contemporary designer Slava Salyuk from Lviv, Ukraine. Organized by Walter Hoydysh, PhD, director of Art at the Institute, the exhibition opens on March 18 and runs through April, 2, 2017. This is Ms. Salyuk's first showing with the Ukrainian Institute of America. A reception for the artist will be held on Saturday, March 18, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

Slava Salyuk's intricate and ornate necklaces reflect on traditional global motifs and inclinations. *Geography* is a uniquely introspective journey through time and place where unexpected parallel decorative and design influences from Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, South and Southeast Asia, Latin America, and the Ukrainian Carpathian Mountains demonstrate mystical relationships between distinct cultures whose ethnic and spiritual paths have never genuinely nor pragmatically crossed.

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Each piece of Ms. Salyuk's necklaces is enriched with the collected insight, meaning and power that is woven into the organic essence of being and tradition. She collects and employs a diverse array of materials such as semi-precious stones, Venetian glass, Hutsul* and Coptic crucifixes, silver coins, and beads to create necklaces that retain unique elements of the cross-cultural past while adapting a personal vocabulary within a contemporary context.

Slava Salyuk was first exposed to jewelry design by her late father, noted artist Lyubart Lishchynskyi. He shared with her an innate knowledge and demonstration of craft, spirituality, and cultural awareness. Following her father's untimely death, Slava continued the joint practice by developing her own voice and style.

Already fluent in traditional Ukrainian motifs, she became intrigued by the similarity of women's ethnic jewelry from distant cultures and periods. As she sourced materials from around the world, Salyuk detected that, for example, an 18th century Ethiopian cross may easily be mistaken for a cross made in Kyiv in the 13th century, or that a Coptic cross might bear similar motifs to those found on Hutsul carved beams and decorative chests. These observations were the beginnings of what has evolved into *Geography*, an exploration three years in the making.

Slava Salyuk graduated from Lviv College of Technology with a concentration in fashion design. In 1994, she founded the fashion studio collective "Secession," in Lviv, in operation until 1999. Since then, Ms. Salyuk has maintained a practice as a freelance designer. Her wearable designs are much in demand, and widely collected in Ukraine and abroad. She lives and works in Lviv, Ukraine.

(* Known for their rich folklore and design motifs, the Hutsuls are an ethnographic group of pastoral highlanders that inhabit the southeastern region of the Carpathian Mountains, in Western Ukraine.

All designs in this exhibition are available for purchase.

About Art at the Institute

Celebrating its sixty-third year, Art at the Institute is the the visual arts programming division of The Ukrainian Institute of America. Since its establishment in 1955, Art at the Institute organizes projects and exhibitions with the aim of providing post-war and contemporary Ukrainian artists a platform for their creative output, presenting it to the broader public on New York's Museum Mile.

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These heritage projects have included numerous exhibitions of traditional and contemporary art and topical stagings that have become well-received landmark events.

The Ukrainian Institute of America, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the art, music and literature of Ukraine and the Ukrainian diaspora. It serves both as a center for the Ukrainian-American community and as America's "Window on Ukraine," hosting art exhibits, concerts, film screenings, poetry readings, literary evenings, children's programs, lectures, symposia, and full educational programs, all open to the public. Founded in 1948 by William Dzus, inventor, industrialist, and philanthropist, The Ukrainian Institute is permanently housed in the Fletcher-Sinclair mansion at 2 East 79th Street and Fifth Avenue. The building is designated as a National Historic Landmark and protected as a contributing element of the New York Metropolitan Museum Historic District.

Exhibition hours: Tuesday to Sunday, 12-6pm, or by appointment.

For further information: Please contact Olena Sidlovyh, Executive Director, at (212) 288-8660, or mail@ukrainianinstitute.org.

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