

Anastasiia Podervianska: *High Textile*

October 4 – November 11, 2018

Reception for the artist: Thursday, October 4, 6:00 – 8:00 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 the start to its 2018-19 season with *High Textile*, an exhibition of contemporary decorative and wearable fabric art by Kyiv-based Ukrainian artist Anastasiia Podervianska. The exhibition will open on Thursday, October 4 with a public reception for the artist held at **The Ukrainian Institute of America** from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, and remain on view to Sunday, November 11. Curated by Walter Hoydysh, PhD, director of Art at the Institute, this exhibition marks Ms. Podervianska's first showing in New York.

Redefining the history of art subjects and themes, Podervianska uses the medium of textile to subvert its cultural aura as “woman’s work” and transforms it into colorful, ironic, lively, and, if not, liberating objects of visual affect. Influenced by postmodernist ideas, the two groups of works on display — *Country Horrors* and *Coat Portraits* — are the products of spirited experimentation with materials

and exacting technique while at the same time confronting important cultural issues such as folkloric legend, biblical and Eastern iconography, historical characterization, national and personal identity, popular culture, and socially predetermined roles.

Inspired by Yuriy Bulashev’s book, *Ukrainian People in Their Legends, Religious Views and Beliefs* (1909), the selected wall pieces identified with *Country Horrors* illustrate the author’s dedicated narrative legends. Utilizing hand-stitching, Podervianska collages ethnic embroidery, fabric prints, patches, and texts to pay homage to past historical conventions with contemporary incisive irony and sharp-witted humor. Conversely, *Coat Portraits* display embroidered copies of renown cultural luminaries on wearable coats designed and sewn by couturier, Lilia Bratus. Having previously created costumes for her father’s (poet and playwright Les Poderviansky) absurd performances, Ms. Podervianska seeks to turn clothing into restless art.

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Noted art historian Olesia Avrymemko, of the Modern Art Research Institute (Ukrainian Academy of Arts, Kyiv) says of Podervianska' art, "Like caverns of mysterious caves, her works are as deep as each viewer-explorer is ready to go. The bolder the explorer, the bigger the prize: courageous viewers who dare to follow secret passages are suddenly led out of the caves of the subconscious out into the open, onto mountain peaks that allow conscious reflection of the path behind them."

Anastasiia Podervianska is a graduate of the National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture (department monumental painting), in Kyiv, Ukraine. She has participated in group and solo exhibitions in Ukraine with

Dymchuk Gallery, Mystetskyi Arsenal, Tryptych Gallery, and White World Gallery, among other cultural venues. Her textile works were featured by Voloshyn Gallery at the 2017 running of the SCOPE Miami Beach art fair and are represented in public and private collections in Ukraine, Germany, Poland, and the USA. Ms. Podervianska lives and works in Kyiv.

Exhibition hours: Tuesday to Sunday, 12:00 – 6:00 PM, or by appointment.

For further information: Please contact Olena Sidlovych, executive director, at (212) 288-8660 or mail@ukrainianinstitute.org.

About Art at the Institute

Celebrating its sixty-fourth year of activity, **Art at the Institute** is 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. These heritage projects have included numerous exhibitions of traditional and contemporary art, and topical stagings that have become well-received landmark events.

Images:

Anastasiia Podervianska, *Eve*, 2018, textile with hand embroidery, 93 x 56 inches (first page)

Anastasiia Podervianska, *Shinobi Koi*, 2017, textile with hand embroidery, size (this page)

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