

## *A Radically Different Society* Contemporary video art from Ukraine

August 26 – September 17, 2021

Opening reception and public presentation: Thursday, August 26 at 7:00 PM

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

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*In order to comply with the most current New York State and New York City COVID health and safety guidelines, masks and proof of vaccination for this event will be required.*



**NEW YORK** — **Art at the Institute** is pleased to announce *A Radically Different Society*, an installation of contemporary video works created by 26 artists and cooperatives based in Ukraine during the years spanning Euromaidan and the war in Donbas — 2014 to present — capturing Ukrainian society through a dramatic period in its history. Presented by guest curator **Lesia Kulchynska, PhD**, this exhibition ventures to engage a western audience to encounter slivers of political and social daily life comingled with the blinks of dream-state desires and fears the auteurs bring to normal existence. **An opening reception and presentation by Dr. Kulchynska will take place on Thursday, August 26 at 7:00 PM.**

Kulchynska, the curator, raises the question whether the exhibited artists' dreamscapes are also a space(s) of potentiality, where unseen life forms grow, nurture and spread their seeds for a new societal body and existence. Kulchynska states, "The dream for a society that might succeed in a radically different way flashed during the Maidan revolution in practices of spontaneous order, solidarity, and mutual support; in a sense of com-

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munality and trust that suddenly united people who never would have previously met. The revolutionary moment of exceptional experience has passed, yet the dream settled in memories, infusing the fantasies and practices of persons and groups, heating tiny utopias somewhere in the urban thickets, nurturing frustrations, as well as political speculation.” These selected videos illustrate the hidden life of this dream(s), invoking parallel senses of angst, fatigue, and uncertainty of the turbulent war years. These artists have never been to the front lines, nor have they experienced or witnessed battle. Yet, from 2014 until the present, they have lived near it and in its shadow.

**Exhibiting artists:** AntiGonna, Piotr Armianowski, Diana Azzuz, Yana Bachynska, Anatoly Belov, Kateryna Berlova, Daria Chechushkova, Fantastic little splash, Ksenia Hnylytska, Boris Kashapov, Alina Kleytman, Taras Kovach and Anna Sorokovaya, Iryna Kudrya, Oksana Kazmina, Maria Kulikovska, Dariia Kuzmych, Stan Kvitko, Katya Libkind, Yarema Malashchuk and Roman Himey, Roman Mikhaylov, Oleksiy Radynski, Lena Siyatovska, Bohdana Smyrnova, Tamara Turliun, Alina Yakubenko, and Yuri Yefanov.

**Lesia Kulchynska, PhD** is a Kyiv-based art curator and visual studies researcher affiliated with the Research Platform of the Pinchuk Art Center (Kyiv) and the Department of Screen and Performance Art Studies at the Rylsky Institute of Art Studies, Folklore and Ethnology at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Kyiv). She also teaches cultural studies at the Kyiv Academy of Media Arts (written and developed the course, “Violence of the Image”). She worked as a curator at the Visual Culture Research Center / VCRC (2011-2019) and Set Independent Art Space (2019-2020). From 2018-19, Kulchynska was a Fulbright Scholar residing at New York University. Her research interests focus on the theory and history of the image and theory of cinema.

**This exhibition and presentation is made possible with generous support from the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation (Kyiv, Ukraine).**

#### **About Art at the Institute**

Celebrating its sixty-sixth 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 postwar 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, modern and contemporary art, and topical stagings that have become well-received landmark events.

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

**For further information:** Please contact Olena Sidlovykh, Executive Director, at (212) 288-8660 or [mail@ukrainianinstitute.org](mailto:mail@ukrainianinstitute.org).

**Image:** Katya Libkind, “Where are your big ears, dear dead Grandma?” (video still).

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