

## Participants of Care & Resilience: Ukrainian Museums in Times of War

Amsterdam, 28 February 2023



### Visit

Herengracht 474  
1017 CA Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

Post  
Postbus 15648  
1001 NC Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

Telephone  
+31 (0)20 616 4225

[dutchculture.nl](http://dutchculture.nl)

*Fuel tank of a fighter jet found in the newly de-occupied Kharkiv region by the team of the War Museum. Photo: Viktor Byshev*

DutchCulture welcomes seven outstanding museum professionals from Ukraine for a one-week visit to the Netherlands. We have asked the participants - directors of various museums and heritage protection networks - to share their stories with and have their voices heard by the Dutch cultural sector. We will listen to difficult stories of loss and destruction, but also hopeful and inspiring examples of bravery, of sticking together, of fighting for one's values. Here's an introduction of the seven participants.

## Oksana Barshynova

Deputy Director of Exhibitions, National Art Museum of Ukraine, Kyiv



### **Mission statement of the museum**

The National Art Museum of Ukraine (NAMU) is the oldest museum in Kyiv, opened in 1899, with a huge collection of Ukrainian art from the 12th century to the present. The museum was founded thanks to the efforts of Ukrainian intellectuals in the late 19th century as the first public museum in Kyiv. The building itself is a monument of art, the work of the famous Kyiv architect Władysław Horodecki. The museum collection is still being completed and contemporary art streams of the end 20th – beginning of 21st century find their place here.

Today the museum's mission is to bring back names forgotten or forcibly erased from history, to present the more complex history of Ukrainian art, to explore regional schools, and to establish more sustainable connections between Ukraine and the world through art.

### **Bio**

Oksana Barshynova is an art historian and curator, and deputy Director General of Exhibitions at the National Art Museum of Ukraine. She is co-developer of the new concept for exhibiting modern and contemporary art at NAMU and the author of many articles on the history of Ukrainian art. She has curated a number of exhibition projects in Ukraine and abroad and developed and implemented the strategy of replenishing the museum's collection with contemporary art. Since 2019, she has been engaged in the development of strategy and management of exhibition activities at the NAMU. In 2022, as part of the PAUSE programme, she worked at the Musée d'Orsay and the Centre Pompidou in Paris. Member of the organising committee of the Festival of Ukrainian Contemporary Young Art (2017). She is also an expert of the Taras Shevchenko National Prize (since 2019).

## **Milena Chorna**

Deputy Director of the War Museum (National Museum of the History of Ukraine in the Second World War. The Memorial Complex), Kyiv



### **Mission statement of the museum**

The War Museum is an institution based at an ancient historical site which in the late 20th century became a WWII memorial overlooking the Dnieper river in Kyiv, Ukraine. The museum exhibition presents documents and artifacts of the biggest military conflicts of the 20th-21st centuries and reveals the struggle of Ukrainians for their freedom, independence and cultural identity. The mission of the Museum is to demonstrate the origins and the scope of tragedies the wars lead to, shed light on the ways of avoiding them, acknowledge the lessons of the past, document the challenges of the present and pave the way for the future.

### **Bio**

Milena Chorna has over 15 years of work experience in regional and national museums of Ukraine. Since last December she is the deputy Director for development and communications at the War Museum. She is also an expert on cultural heritage of the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation since 2020. Prior to that she was an analyst at the State Agency on Arts and Artistic Education and the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation. She is a guest lecturer at the Kyiv-Mohyla School of Government, teaching Tourism and Preservation of Cultural Heritage and she holds master's degree in Journalism and Art history. Besides that, she authored over 40 scholarly articles and two white papers for the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine and is a member of the National Union of Artists of Ukraine.

## **Olha Honchar**

Director of the Memorial Museum of Totalitarian Regimes "TERRITORY OF TERROR" and founder of the Museum Crisis Center, Lviv



### **Mission statement of the museum**

The Memorial Museum is a municipal institution that explores and present the tragic pages of the history of the mid-20th century in the context of modern challenges. It was initiated by the Lviv City Council in 2009 and is located on the territory of the former ghetto (1941–1943) and the transit prison (1944–1955). It serves as a platform for dialogue and discussion around the traumatic events of the past and present in order to build a tolerant and inclusive society. The museum is an example of the memorialisation of the controversial legacy left after World War II and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Activities include exhibitions, educational projects, artistic interventions in the urban space, cooperation with relevant (inter)national institutions and documenting oral evidence of tragic events from the 1930s to the present.

The Museum Crisis Center (MCC) was founded just a few days after the Russian invasion in 2022, to help maintain the welfare of museum professionals who are in the centre of the battles in east and south Ukraine.

### **Bio**

Olha Honchar researches the peculiarities of PR, cultural and museum management in Ukraine. Next to being the director of the Memorial Museum of Totalitarian Regimes "Territory of Terror" and the Museum Crisis Center in Lviv, she is a communicator of projects such as Cultural Diplomacy among Ukrainian Regions in near-front and freed cities of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions (2015-2018). Also, she was co-curator of the experimental exhibition Anti-terrorist Operation of the Luhansk Regional Museum of Local History in Starobilsk (2020) and curator for interdisciplinary projects in the field of historical memory and trauma. Next to that she is co-founder of the NGO New Museum and the charitable organization Cultural Heritage Fund of Ukraine.

## **Olena Mykhaylovska**

Deputy Director of research and institutional development at the Khmelnytsky Regional Art Museum (XOXM), Khmelnytsky (website is temporary unavailable for security purposes)



### **Mission statement of the museum**

The Khmelnytsky Regional Art Museum collects, preserves, does research, exhibits and promotes Ukrainian modern art of the 20th-21st century. The history of the museum is synchronized with the history of democratic changes in Ukraine, during the first trends towards democratisation of the society in the late 80s. One year after the proclamation of the Independence of the Ukrainian state in 1991 the XOXM opened its doors to visitors. The museum organises exhibitions, festivals, actions, symposiums and art residences, and its collection is one of the most complete and representative in Ukraine.

The challenges posed by the current era of rapid change have led to a critical reconsideration of the image of the museum as a socio-cultural institution, whose main mission is the preservation of tangible cultural heritage.

### **Bio**

Olena Mykhaylovska studied History and Theory of Art at the National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture in Kyiv. She has been a researcher at the Khmelnytsky Regional Art Museum; curator for the Soros Center for Contemporary Art and a deputy director of the NGO's New Art and Institute of Contemporary Art in Odessa. She has also worked as editor (in chief) and author for various magazines such as L'Officiel Ukraine, Eva, House and interior, Spicy, Na vse 100, Elite-club and Burlesque and was a senior lecturer at Khmelnytsky National University, Department of Design. Next to that she has been author and host of the art and educational television programme Picture of the day. At present she is a board member of the NGO Socio cultural institution ARTmanufactory and curator and deputy director at the Khmelnytsky Regional Art Museum.

## Tetyana Pylypchuk

Director of the Kharkiv Literary Museum, Kharkiv



### **Mission statement of the museum**

The Kharkiv Literary Museum supports the personal development and social mutual understanding through history and experience of regional Slobidska (from the Kharkiv region) literature and to help globalize its culture.

### **Bio**

Tetyana Pylypchuk studied philology at the Kharkiv National University, and has worked at the Kharkiv Literary Museum since she was a student in 1993. She became deputy director in 2018 and director since 2022. She researches Ukrainian literature of the period 1920-1930 and current trends of exposure, she studies promotion of museum collections among different audiences and new forms of communication with museum visitors. Since 2013 she curated many exhibitions, art and scientific events, and provided trainings for museum curators. She has been member of the Museum Council under the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine from 2017 till 2019 and is member of ICOM since 2016.

## Ihor Poshyvailo

General Director, co-founder and coordinator of the National Museum of the Revolution of Dignity (Maidan Museum) and the Heritage Emergency Response Initiative (HERI), Kyiv



### **Mission statement of the museum**

The Maidan Museum fosters development of civil society in Ukraine by creating a cultural communication platform for further reconciliation and consolidation of the nation, dissemination of knowledge and awareness about the struggle of the Ukrainian people for their rights, dignity and European values; to rediscover, promote and protect cultural heritage in times of war and to encourage multicultural dialogue and mutual understanding.

Heritage Emergency Response Initiative (HERI) promotes and contributes to the preservation of cultural heritage at wartime, assessment and documentation of losses and damages, its post-war reconstruction and increasing resilience to emergency situations.

### **Bio**

Ihor Poshyvailo is the Director General of the National Memorial to the Heavenly Hundred Heroes and Revolution of Dignity Museum (Maidan Museum) and a cultural activist, ethnologist, museologist, cultural manager and art curator. He is ex-chairman of the Museum Council at the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture and the ICOM International Committee on Disaster Resilient Museums. Furthermore, he holds PhD in History, was a Fulbright Scholar at the Smithsonian Institution; an international fellow at the DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the Kennedy Center and a participant, lecturer and mentor of the First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis training courses of ICCROM in the Netherlands, US and Italy. When the Russian invasion started in February 2022 he became the initiator, co-founder and coordinator of the Heritage Emergency Response Initiative (HERI) and a member of the National Council for the Recovery of Ukraine from the War.

## **Yuliya Vaganova**

Acting Director of the Bohdan and Varvara Khanenko National Museum of Arts, Kyiv



### **Mission statement of the museum**

The Bohdan and Varvara Khanenko National Museum of Arts (Kyiv), wider known as the Khanenko Museum, saves, researches, presents and interprets the collection of the museum. It is home to the most important foreign art collection in Ukraine and includes about 25.000 objects representing the arts of the Ancient World, Europe and Asia.

### **Bio**

Yuliya Vaganova is an art historian, art manager, curator and currently Acting Director of the Bohdan and Varvara Khanenko National Museum of Arts in Kyiv, Ukraine. From 2016-21, she was Deputy Director for Exhibition and Museum Projects at Mystetskyi Arsenal and before that Deputy Director for Exhibition, Partnerships, and International Projects at the National Art Museum of Ukraine.

She also directed the Center for Contemporary Art at NaUKMA, Kyiv, from 2005 to 2009. In her various institutional roles, she has participated in strategic development, as well as the implementation of educational programmes and various museum exhibitions. She initiated and has led a number of training programmes focused on developing arts institutions, transformation processes, communication strategies, as well as promoting site-specific art activities.