

# ART ACCESS

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## SHADOWS OF US: a Group Show of Ukrainian Female Artists

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*Inna Kharchuk, Florescence, 2023*

**Art Access Gallery** in partnership with SLS Hotel, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Beverly Hills, is honored to announce “Shadows of Us,” a powerful and timely group exhibition, opening during Frieze Los Angeles Art Week. Curated by Lia Snisarenko, it showcases the works of emerging Ukrainian female artists Inna Kharchuk, Anna Veriki, Iryna Maksymova, and Liza Zhdanova. The start of the show on February 24, 2024, coincides with the second anniversary of the full-scale Russian military invasion of Ukraine. In the context of conflict, this exhibition explores both individual and shared experiences, offering insights into the country’s path of enduring hardship and resilience.

The artists explore themes deeply rooted in history and nostalgia, engaging with the past not just as a memory but as a vital part of their present narrative. The artworks embody a response to recent hardships, offering a visual dialogue that bridges the gap between Ukraine’s turbulent history and its contemporary reality. These pieces resonate with the collective memory of a nation, echoing the sentiments of loss, strength, and enduring hope.

In the face of economic challenges, the artists express a compelling inclination toward personal indulgences. Their works celebrate life's simple joys and pleasures, showcasing the human spirit's unyielding capacity for finding beauty and solace amidst adversity. This theme underscores the importance of personal joy and self-expression in challenging times, offering a counterpoint to the narrative of struggle.

**Inna Kharchuk's** pieces resonate with the powerful motif of motherhood, portraying the complex yet joyful task of raising children in extraordinary circumstances, underscoring the role of women as both nurturers and pillars of hope.

**Anna Veriki's** paintings explore the longing for freedom and the dynamic shifts of a society striving for peace and sovereignty.

**Liza Zhdanova** confronts the stark realities of war, offering a contemplative space for viewers to engage with the intricate fabric of conflict and its lasting effects on the human spirit.

Meanwhile, **Iryna Maksymova's** works are a testament to authenticity and individuality, unearthing the layers of self through personal stories and emotions.

Moreover, "Shadows of Us" addresses the theme of generational trauma, exploring the long-term effects of conflict and upheaval on individuals and communities. The artists' works are poignant narratives that weave together the past and present, shedding light on how historical events shape the experiences of future generations.

"Shadows of Us" offers a powerful and deeply human perspective on contemporary life and art in Ukraine. It invites viewers to engage with the narratives of resilience, transformation, and the indomitable human spirit, as expressed through the unique voices of these talented Ukrainian artists.

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## **"Shadows of Us"**

February 24 - March 25, 2024

**SLS Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Beverly Hills**

465 La Cienega Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90048

Cocktail reception: February 29, 5-7 PM

March 26 - April 14, 2024

**Art Axxess Gallery**

West Hollywood, 90046

By appointment only, rsvp to [info@artaxcess.com](mailto:info@artaxcess.com)



Born in 1995 in Rivne, Ukraine, Inna Kharchuk has emerged as a notable figure in contemporary art, embodying the resilience and intricacy of the human spirit.

Her initial fascination with avant-garde and impressionist art during her studies at the College of Culture and Arts and the Lviv Academy of Arts profoundly influenced her style and cultural identity as an artist deeply connected to her Ukrainian roots.

Inna's work touches on vital social issues such as identity, collective memory, and gender roles. These themes gained particular significance in the period leading up to the war in Ukraine. During this time, her art started receiving more attention. Her ability to capture the essence of societal issues made her work visually striking and intellectually and emotionally engaging.

The war marked a significant shift in Inna's life and work. Relocating to Gdańsk, Poland, and later to Cyprus for an artist residency, these experiences enriched her perspective. Her work, showcased in Cyprus, Ukraine, and France's Sorbonne University, became a blend of personal, historical, and cultural narratives, focusing on the interplay of human emotions, nature, and personality. Her abstract paintings inspired by natural forms delve into how our environment and experiences shape us, advocating for peace and introspection.

In her current phase, Inna explores the interplay between human emotions, nature, and personality. Her paintings, often abstract and inspired by natural forms, reflect how our environment and experiences shape our thoughts and being. Through her art, Inna advocates for the importance of peace and introspection in understanding ourselves and the world around us.

One of Inna's most poignant series delves into the complexities of motherhood. This series explores the intense emotional journey of parenting, including the love, fear, and transformation that comes with it. It invites viewers to contemplate deeper aspects of human relationships and personal growth. Through her paintings, Inna offers a window into her world, encouraging empathy, understanding, and hope in times of adversity. Her story and her art continue to inspire and resonate with people across the globe, reminding us of the power of art to connect, heal, and reveal the deeper truths of our shared humanity.



Inna Kharchuk, Florescence, 2024  
Acrylic and oil on canvas, 47 x 31 in (120 x 80 cm)  
\$ 3 000



Inna Kharchuk, Levada/Home, 2024  
Acrylic, oil and pastel on canvas, 53 x 20 in (135 x 60 cm)  
\$ 3 000



Inna Kharchuk, Dependence 1, 2023  
Acrylic and oil on canvas, 76 4/5 × 44 9/10 in (195 × 114 cm)  
\$ 7 000



Inna Kharchuk, Dependence 2, 2023  
Acrylic and oil on canvas, 76 4/5 × 44 9/10 in (195 × 114 cm)  
\$ 7 000

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## Anna Veriki

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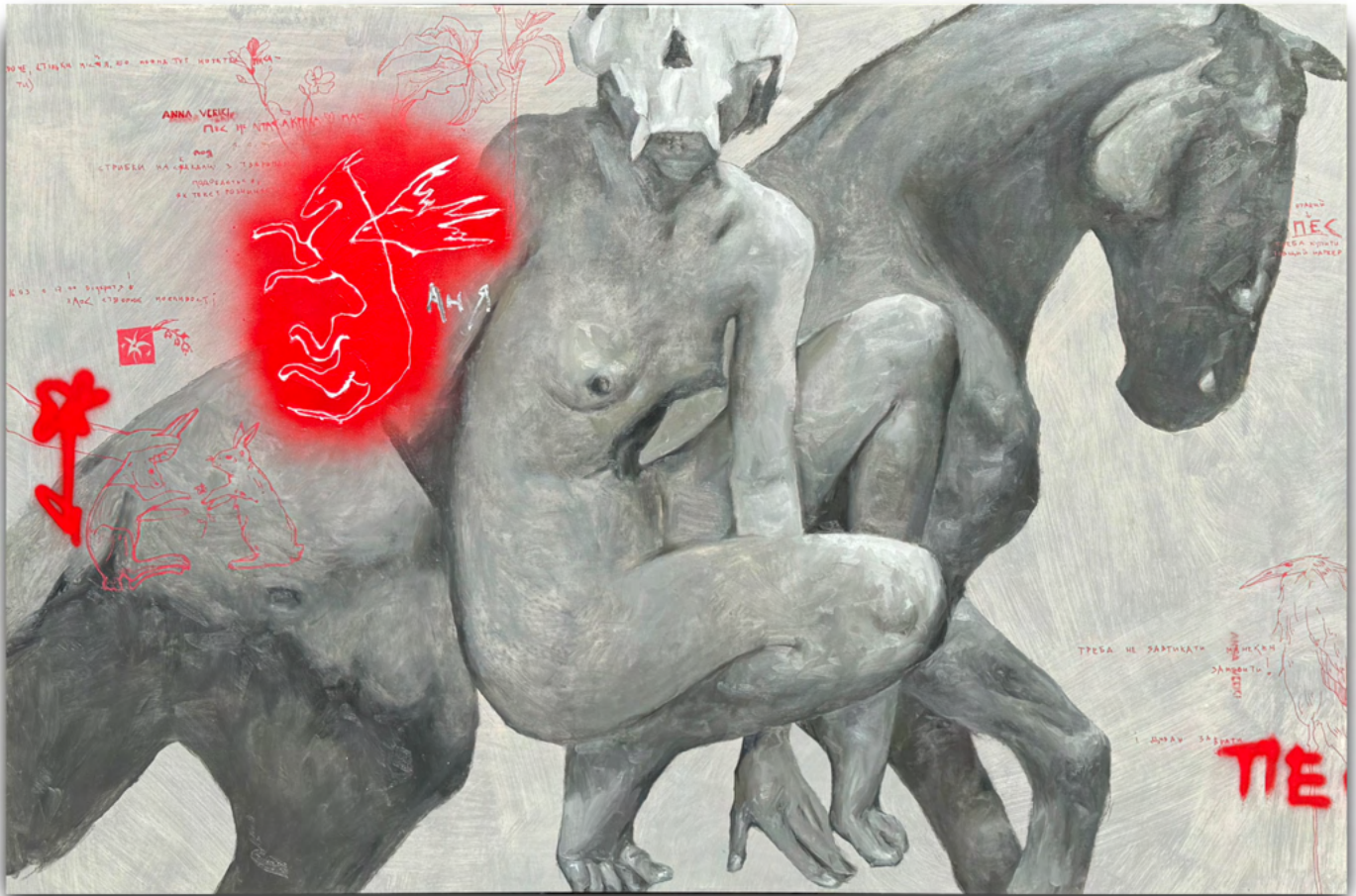
Born in 1998 in Chernihiv, Ukraine, artist Anna Veriki (Anna Vereshchaka) now resides in Kyiv. Intrigued by art early on, she studied at Shevchenko State Art School in Kyiv from age 12, fostering her independence and artistic growth. Anna specialized in painting at Kyiv's National Academy of Visual Arts and Architecture from 2019 to 2022. Her distinctive style has earned her international acclaim, with her works in private collections worldwide.

Anna's approach to art is heartfelt and genuine. She believes in expressing her truth through her paintings, which reflect her inner thoughts and experiences. Her work often explores fundamental human emotions, childhood memories, and the complexities of love and fear. Anna frequently uses her own body as a reference in her work, believing that this personal connection brings her closer to her audience.

One of her notable projects is the "Running series." In her expressive paintings, Anna delves into themes of primal instinct, sincerity, and a deep connection with nature. The series is characterized by a mix of naive elements and a focus on basic colors, primarily black and white, to avoid distracting from the narrative. The use of red serves as an accent, symbolizing sincerity and primal honesty. These paintings explore the concept of freedom through the act of running, particularly the liberating experience of running naked. This theme is a metaphor for getting closer to oneself and reuniting with nature, embodying a raw, unfiltered state of being.

Living in Kyiv during a tumultuous period due to the war in Ukraine, Anna chose to stay in her homeland despite the challenges. She feels a strong sense of duty as a Ukrainian artist to contribute to her country's cultural landscape during this critical time. Her surroundings and the ongoing conflict have profoundly influenced her work and will continue to shape her artistic expression.





Anna Veriki, The Dog Does Not Fly, But Has Wings, 2023  
Oil on canvas, 54 3/10 × 81 1/10 in (138 × 206 cm)  
\$ 5 000



Anna Veriki, My Freedom, 2023  
Oil on canvas, 78 3/10 × 45 7/10 in (199 × 116 cm)  
\$ 5 000

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## Liza Zhdanova

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Liza Zhdanova, born in 1994 in Kirovograd, Ukraine, is an artist whose work transcends mere aesthetics to grapple with profound themes of human existence and conflict. She honed her skills at the Lviv National Academy of Arts from 2012 to 2019, where she mastered monumental painting—a form that demands a blend of precision and grandiose vision.

Now based in Kyiv, Zhdanova has become known for her evocative series “Flowers,” which deftly captures the interplay between the enduring beauty of life and the shadows cast by war. Her paintings feature blooms set against foreboding backdrops, a striking metaphor for life’s fragile yet resilient nature amidst turmoil.

Her use of dripping paint is particularly poignant, evoking the passage of time and the sense of loss that conflict brings. These visual elements invite viewers into a space of reflection, challenging them to consider the duality of beauty and tragedy and the indelible impact of war on the soul.

Zhdanova’s work is characterized by its emotional depth. She paints narratives that compel us to confront the stark realities of our times. Her canvases are stages where the drama of human resilience plays out, suggesting that hope and beauty persist even in the darkest of times.

In her exploration of such weighty subjects, Zhdanova offers a silent yet powerful testimony to the strength of the human spirit. Her art isn’t just about what’s seen; it’s about what’s felt. It’s a poignant reminder that amidst the shadows of life’s conflicts, there are always traces of color, growth, and life—a message that resonates deeply in our contemporary world.



Liza Zhdanova, Flowers, 2024  
Acrylic on canvas, 78 x 55 in (200 x 140 cm)  
\$ 9 000



Liza Zhdanova, Flowers, 2023  
Acrylic on canvas, 78 x 60 in (200 x 150 cm)  
\$ 7 000



Liza Zhdanova, No name, 2020  
Acrylic on canvas, 78 x 60 in (200 x 150 cm)  
\$ 5 000



Liza Zhdanova, No name, 2022  
Acrylic on canvas, 13 1/2 x 13 1/2 in (35 x 35 cm)  
\$ 800

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## Iryna Maksymova

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Iryna Maksymova, born in the historical city of Kolomyia, Ukraine in 1991, is an artist whose canvas and textile works are renowned for their vivid storytelling and figurative style. Her artistry is significantly influenced by the Ukrainian avant-garde movement of the early 20th century, particularly Neo-Primitivism. It echoes the enchanting and imaginative flair of self-taught Ukrainian female artists like the celebrated Mariya Pryimachenko.

Her canvases are bold narratives that merge personal emotion and cultural narrative. Maksymova's pieces are distinguished by their energetic strokes, the use of spray paint, and an eclectic mix of texts that range from exuberant scribbles to meticulously drawn Gothic letters.

In a distinctive and recognizable style, Maksymova crafts stories that spotlight powerful female figures, often depicted in the nude, capturing a duality of strength and vulnerability, resilience and delicacy. These women are more than just subjects; they symbolize the fortitude and spirit of a nation.

Animals, too, find a prominent place in her art, from beloved domestic pets to the mythic creatures of Ukrainian tales. These animals are rendered with a reverence usually reserved for human subjects, portrayed as noble guardians or even ethereal warriors. They are often symbolic of the values she espouses through her art.

Maksymova is outspoken about her art being a vehicle for advocacy on equality, human rights, feminism, and animal rights. Her work is an expression of creative vision and a platform for dialogue and change, challenging societal norms and championing empowerment and justice. With each brushstroke, Maksymova paints a picture and weaves a narrative of activism, inviting viewers to contemplate and engage with the deeper themes that resonate throughout her creations.





Iryna Maksymova, *Caring for Each Other*, 2022  
Acrylic, pastels, spray, markers on canvas, 53 1/8 x 59 7/8 in (135 x 152 cm)  
\$ 6 800



Iryna Maksymova, *It's a Game*, 2022  
Acrylic, pastels, spray, markers on canvas, 27 1/2 x 38 5/8 in (70 x 98 cm)  
\$ 3 900