

24 - 2 = 2022

KAKHIDZE / KAMINSKA

In February 2014, the new war in Europe began with Russia's attack on Ukraine and occupation of the Crimean Peninsula. In February 2022, the war of aggression spread to the whole of Ukraine. The war has changed Europe and the world — not only politics, but also the souls of people.

On the occasion of the remembrance day of the outbreak of the war of aggression, the Polish artist Renata Rara Kaminska and the Ukrainian artist Alevtina Kakhidze have joined forces to create an artistic symbol. A site-specific installation is being created for St. Matthew's Foundation around the theme of "borders" — a dialogue between the artists, with the history of their home countries and with the church interior, which can be understood as a resonance chamber of hope.

The exhibition opening took place on January 10, 2025, with a welcome address by Hannes Langbein, director of the St. Matthew Foundation, and an introduction by Dr. Kateryna Rietz-Rakul, director of the Ukrainian Institute in Germany.

The exhibition was visited from January 11 to February 24, 2025 during the opening hours of St. Matthew's Church.

A closing event took place at St. Matthew's Foundation on February 24, 2025. The Ambassador of Ukraine, Oleksii Makeiev, and the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Republic of Poland, Jan Tombiński, welcomed the guests. Afterwards, a panel discussion organized took place moderated by Dr. Kateryna Rietz-Rakul, director of the institute. Participants include Prof. Dr. Jörg Heiser (UdK Berlin), Kim Brian Dudek (Director of the Chemnitzer Pochen Biennale), as well as representatives of the Polish Institute.

The exhibition is organized with the kind support of the Foundation for German-Polish Cooperation, the Embassy of Ukraine in the Federal Republic of Germany, the Ukrainian Institute in Germany, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Berlin and the Polish Institute in Berlin.

St. Matthäus
Stiftung



Botschaft
der Republik Polen
in Berlin



Botschaft der Ukraine
in der Bundesrepublik
Deutschland



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ukrainian
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Photos by
Leo Seidel, Renata Kaminska (cover)
Works by
Kakhidze Alevtina (object, drawings), 2025
Renata Rara Kaminska (installation), 2025







The central conflict in our society is the one between economy and ecology. We are confronted with increasing migration, but instead of discussing the climate change that is responsible or agricultural policy, many prefer to discuss the alleged clash of civilizations. Instead of using the potential of conflicts for a better future, we tend to set them in the past and essentially essentialize them, for example with the alleged conflict between the West and the Others. Rosa Luxemburg was the first to clearly anchor the "ecological problem" and the associated exploitation / colonization in her political work. She paved the way for us more than 150 years ago, well...we still haven't arrived. Colonialism in all its forms is a global phenomenon that shaped - and continues to shape - policies and practices not only in Asia, Africa and the Americas, but also on the Eurasian continent. Colonial legacies and deep-rooted injustice still determine both human and nonhuman ways of living on our planet. The history and legacy of the Russian empire and the Soviet Union from a postcolonial perspective, should rely on our - eastern Europe - point of view. How do we imagine our common future: what comes after the Empire, after the 'post-soviet', and after nature's collapse? And this now after we have turned Nature and people into competitors.

Renata Rara Kaminska



of this
 ABSTRACT
 number.
 Some of
 THEM
 to
 back
 to
 the FRONT

HE USES HIS
 my body
 is valuable
 as a whole,
 yet I have
 agreed in
 principle
 to one amputation, but
 not TWO!...

Alevtona
 then
 where
 is
 your
 COOPERATION





At altar

Poor, poor Sosnovsky's hogweed
This plant in Ukraine is called
Abomination
Invader
and Stalin's Revenge
It was brought to Ukraine from the Caucasus
Stalin was also from the Caucasus
Brought to grow and feed cows
So as not to lose in the Cold War
for our then communist state
But the milk of the cows that ate it turned out to be
bitter
And it also burned their eyes
Sosnovsky's hogweed turned out to be poisonous
to humans too
It was stopped from being grown
It went wild
It turned out to act as an invasive species
Every summer it captures new territories from local plants
Sosnovsky's hogweed has been criminalized
Article 143 of the Land Code of Ukraine
A hectare of its release costs \$650
This was calculated in Estonia
We were with them in the same communist state
In contemporary Russia named a new weapon after
the Borshchivnik Sosnovsky
Poor, poor Sosnovsky's hogweed!

Alevtina Kakhidze