



VOICES OF FREEDOM, VOICES OF WAR IN UKRAINE

CREATIVE WORKSHOPS, READINGS,
AND CONVERSATIONS

Wednesday, March 5, 2025, from 5 to 8 p.m.
Doheny Memorial Library

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Two events—creative workshops, and a reading and panel discussion—highlight the role of artists and writers in the past decade of struggle and war in Ukraine.
- Participants include essayist Sasha Dovzhyk, poet Iryna Starovoyt, artist Marina Malyarenko, and UCSD literature professor Amelia Glaser.

ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS

Sasha Dovzhyk is a Ukrainian writer, editor, and cultural manager. She holds a PhD in English and comparative literature from Birkbeck, University of London, and has taught at Birkbeck and the UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies. Dovzhyk has worked as a special projects curator at the Ukrainian Institute London and has edited three books. Her writing has also appeared in the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Guardian*, *New Lines*, *Index of Censorship*, CNN, and other outlets. She edits the *London Ukrainian Review* and curates the commemorative project *People of Culture Taken Away by the War*. After living in London for nine years, she moved back to Ukraine in 2023, where she serves as the program director of INDEX: Institute for Documentation and Exchange, a new cultural and research institution. At night, she writes stories of Ukrainian resistance stylized as fairy tales.



Sasha Dovzhyk

Marina Malyarenko was born in Halych, an ancient city in western Ukraine full of medieval ruins and prehistoric artifacts reclaimed by nature, and is now based in Santa Monica. Early in her life, Malyarenko learned the craft of Petrykivka, a traditional Ukrainian folk art decorative technique that originated several hundred years ago. The distinctive technique involves painting flower designs on the walls of houses in central Ukraine. Malyarenko has said, “I use the same traditional technique and tools to paint my modern interpretation of this art form... I put my heart and soul, symbols, and ideas into my drawings, believing that this energy will warm and protect those who have a piece of that love in their homes.”



Marina Malyarenko

Iryna Starovoyt is a poet, essayist, humanist, associate professor of cultural studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University, and recurrent visiting fellow at St. John’s College, Oxford. A member of PEN Ukraine and PEN International Writers for Peace Committee, she has authored three volumes of poetry. *A Field of Foundlings* is her bilingual book, published in the U.S. and translated by Grace Mahoney. Starovoyt’s poetry has been anthologized, translated into several languages, set to music, embroidered on canvas in Lithuania, and fired in ceramics. She is on the board of the annual Lviv Book Forum, Culture Congress, Drahomán Prize, Light of Justice Award, and Women in Arts Prize, and served as the head of the jury for the transnational literary prize UNESCO’s City of Literature, based in Lviv since its inception.



Iryna Starovoyt

Photo: Olena Subach



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Amelia Glaser

of *Struggle from Scottsboro to Palestine*. She is the editor of *Stories of Khmelnytsky: Competing Literary Legacies of the 1648 Ukrainian Cossack Uprising* and, with Steven Lee, *Comintern Aesthetics*. She is a translator of poetry from, primarily, Ukrainian, Yiddish, and Russian. She is the co-translator, with Yuliya Ilchuk, of Halyna Kruk's *A Crash Course in Molotov Cocktails*, which was shortlisted for the 2024 Griffin Poetry Prize. She is the curator of the Contemporary Ukrainian Poetry Archive, and is writing a book about Ukrainian poetry since 2014.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- Why is Ukrainian art and literature important, historically and in the present?
- How do artists sustain or cultivate cultural resilience in times of war?
- What are some works of art that have shaped your understanding of war?
- What artists and writers stand out as voices of freedom or voices of resistance in your culture or community?

IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

- People of Culture Taken Away by the War | theukrainians.org/spec/peopleofcultureeng
- Index: Institute for Documentation and Exchange | index-ukraine.org
- Contemporary Ukrainian Poetry Archive | ukrpoetry.org
- Lost Horse Press's Contemporary Ukrainian Poetry Series | losthorsepress.org/contemporary-ukrainian-poetry-series
- Essential Goods*, an exhibition of Ukrainian photography from 2014 to 2024 | essentialgoods.me
- PEN Ukraine | pen.org.ua/en
- Upcoming Visions and Voices Events
3/5 [Joel Michael Reynolds: Disability, Medicine, and the Path to Health Justice](#)
3/15 [VIBE Revived: Reflections from VIBE Magazine's Trailblazing Writers and Editors](#)

As of July 2024, the international literary human rights organization PEN had documented the deaths of at least 117 cultural workers and activists, including writers, journalists, artist, and actors, since the beginning of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

TIMELINE

- 1991** Dissolution of USSR; Ukraine's population votes for independence
- 1992** Ukraine establishes relations with NATO
- 1994** Ukraine agrees to trade away its nuclear stockpile in exchange for guarantees that the UK, U.S., and Russia will respect Ukrainian independence and sovereignty
- 1994 – 2005** Leonid Kuchma president of Ukraine
- 2002** Ukraine government launches bid to join NATO
- 2004/05** The Orange Revolution, a mass protest against elections that protestors believe was rigged in favor of Putin-supported candidate Viktor Yanukovich; in a re-vote, opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko is elected president
- 2008** Ukraine requests an action plan to join NATO
- 2009** Gas crisis in Europe when Russia stops pumping natural gas to Ukraine
- 2010** Yanukovich is elected president of Ukraine, calls for Ukrainian neutrality between Russia and the West
- 2013** Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich refuses to sign an agreement that would move Ukraine closer to the EU
- 2013/14** Maidan (or Euromaidan) uprising, a mass protest movement against Yanukovich's refusal to sign the EU agreement and widespread corruption, human rights abuses, and oligarchy; after violently repressing protest, Yanukovich flees to Russia
- 2014** Russia invades and annexes Crimea (in the south of Ukraine); U.S. and EU impose sanctions on Russia; pro-West Petro Poroshenko elected president of Ukraine; pro-Russian forces shoot down a Malaysian airplane over eastern Ukraine, killing 298 people
- 2014 – 2022** Ongoing fighting in Donetsk and Luhansk (eastern Ukraine, the Donbas)
- 2017** Ukraine's association with the EU is ratified
- 2019** Zelensky elected president of Ukraine
- 2022** Russia launches a full-scale invasion of Ukraine
The war is ongoing

[4/3-6 Homeboys, A Musical](#)

[4/15 Contact Improvisation Workshop with Aimar Pérez Galí](#)

[4/16 Aimar Pérez Galí and Daniel Méndez Piña: "A System in Collapse Is a System Moving Forward."](#)

DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

SOPHIE LESINSKA of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about this event. Electronic resources are accessible through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at libraries.usc.edu but may require the user to log in using their USC credentials.

ARTICLES

- Sasha Dovzhyk, "[Culture as Witness in Ukraine](#)," *Los Angeles Review of Books* (November 1, 2022).
- Sasha Dovzhyk, "[Libraries Turned into Arsenals](#)," *Index on Censorship*, vol. 52 (London: SAGE Publications, 2023).
- Sasha Dovzhyk, "[A Question from Lviv to the World: Are you Going to Leave Us to Face the Kremlin's Madman Alone](#)," *The Guardian* (March 4, 2022).
- Amelia M. Glaser, "[Poetry as Conversation: Introduction to the Contemporary Ukrainian Poetry Archive](#)," *Slavic Review* 83, no. 3 (2024): 481–84.
- Amelia M. Glaser, "[Mine from '33; Yours from '41: Poetic Reinventions in Post-Maidan Ukraine](#)," *Comparative Literature* 75, no. 2 (2023): 207–26.
- Charlotte Higgins, "[Review of Looking at Women Looking at War by Victoria Amelina](#)," *The Guardian* (February 12, 2025).

BOOKS

- Olesya Khromeychuk, [A Loss: The Story of a Dead Soldier Told by His Sister](#) (Berlin: Ibidem, 2021).
- Oksana Maksymchuk and Max Rosochinsky, eds., [Words for War: New Poems from Ukraine](#) (Boston: Harvard University Ukrainian Research Institute, 2017).
- Iryna Starovoyt, [A Field of Foundlings: Selected Poems](#) (Sandpoint: Lost Horse Press, 2017).

STREAMING MEDIA

- [20 Days in Mariupol](#) (Frontline, 2023).
- [Porcelain War](#) (Picturehouse, 2024).
- [Dialogues on War](#) (PEN Ukraine, 2022).

WEBSITES

- People of Culture Taken Away by the War theukrainians.org/spec/peopleofcultureeng
- Words for War wordsforwar.com

