

“One of our over-tasks is, obviously, to make this world better.”

The Pandemic Coronavirus 19 followed by the Russian war of aggression, lasting in Ukraine for a full year now, impacted, of course, the Academy’s activities. Many planned events have been forced to transfer to online – conferences, round tables, presentations. However, even under such circumstances such as cuts of electricity and internet or air alerts, the Academy continues working.

Exhibition halls of Academy Presidium and Modern Art Research Institute, located downtown, as well as partner museums and centers host the works of academicians and their disciples; scientific magazines of our institutes publish papers of researchers and theorists. Music works, performances and films of Academy members meet with spectators and listeners as well in Ukraine as abroad.

Today, the Academy of Arts is an open platform for expressing views and position of artists. The artistic freedom depends to significant extent on the institutional environment which can support an individual artist. It is clear, that the architecture of the institutional background which has been composed after two world wars in the 20th century happened on the European territory requires an updated response to the challenges of our time. It deals as well with political and social institutes as with institutes providing creative and social activities or – wider – the humanitarian dimension.

Changes occur gradually in all spheres. The European Alliance of Academies was created in response to a rising nationalism in Europe; the Russian war of aggression is one of evidences of this. Another one is the political solidarity of European and world governments with Ukraine. The phenomenon which has no analogues in the historic perspective: by scale, comprehension, consistency and inviolability.

(...)

And what about the art and artists? Under the conditions of the war against the past, for the present and the future, what is, by large, the Russian aggression against Ukraine, Ukrainian artists stand for the universal values, enjoy the wide freedom of expression, through creative activities and civil position.

Many professional artists took arms and joined the ranks of defenders of Ukraine, many others joined the volunteer movement devoting their time and efforts to supply the front and to help civil population in cities and villages damaged by the war. The artists paint posters, create murals, decorate with pieces of art walls of shelters, and organize charity performances, concerts, film demonstrations, exhibitions. Charity activities for fundraising to support artists and scientists became the important component of today’s work of the Academy of Arts. Painters, musicians, filmmakers, theatre personalities conduct charity events as in Academy in Kyiv, as in other cities of Ukraine and abroad.

Summarizing, it should be noted that the artist in the modern world becomes an active participant of this process of change, and his or her creative activity takes various forms, from artistic expression to civil rebellion and upholding of universal values and ideals, trying, as it was said at the beginning, to improve this world.

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