

# Living through War

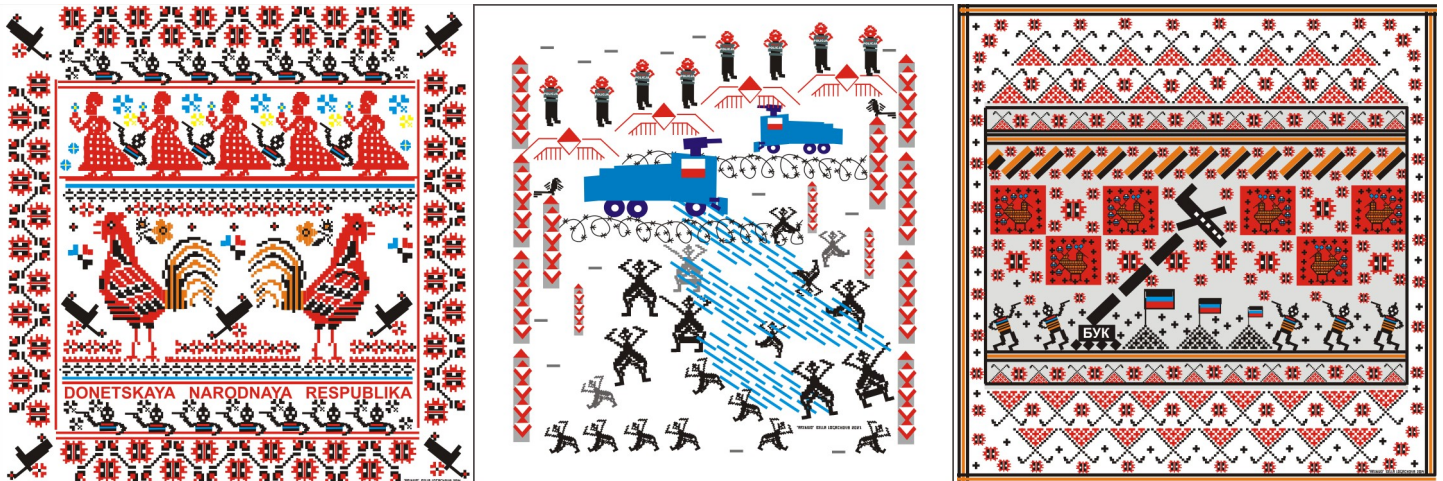
Works from Kharkiv by Bella Logachova

July 28, 2022 - June 11, 2023

ХЛІБНЕ ПЕРЕМИР'Я 2019



**“War time is difficult...but we need to do something, to create new things - it’s our responsibility.”**



### Artist Statement

As a contemporary artist with a critical attitude to the war in my native country Ukraine, my work exploits a play with irony and an appeal to symbolism and conceptuality that have always been valuable for me. I am looking for the depth of expression or that phenomenon that excites the people around me: it is like a manifestation of pain or acute receptivity to reality. At the start of the military events in my country, it was a challenge for me to begin a series of documentary ornaments *ARtNUO (New Ukrainian Ornaments)* in the style of ‘Ukrainian’ embroidery but utilizing the medium of digital graphics.

I saw my main task as attracting the attention of the viewer in order to change the focus of vision on one or another important event in the world, removing stereotypes and propaganda, motivating me to develop my own attitude and opinion, deciphering double codes. I found my artistic language and style using the sign-symbolic system of Slavic embroidery, and adding new design elements. I am interested in combining images of the beautiful and the most tragic events-these prompting my curiosity about the life-affirming aspects of the world in its revival.

**“Art will always be against War.”**



**Image Credits:** (cover) (detail) *Hleb Peremir/Bread Peace* 2019), 2019; (this page clockwise from top left) *DNR (Donetskaya Narodnaya Respublika)*, 2014; *Poland Water Cannon Migrants*, 2021; *Boing 777*, 2015; *WARWARWARWAR*, 2022; *Brexit*, 2016; *Maidan*, 2014

## Artist Biography

Bella Logachova is a Ukrainian media artist and photographer. She was born in Mariupol in 1973 and in 1999 she graduated from the Kharkiv State Academy of Design and Art, where she currently teaches Media Arts. Following her graduation, she received a two-year internship at the Nuremberg Academy of Art in Germany. Bella Logachova is a co-founder of SOSka arts group and Excess cinema group in Kharkiv. She has exhibited her work in galleries across Europe and in Ukraine.

Bella Logachova received wide recognition after the presentation of posters titled *ARtNUO (New Ukrainian Ornaments)* at the 1th Block's IX International Eco-Poster Triennale, in Kharkiv, Ukraine, for which she received the 2015 Grand Prix Award of the festival. 4th Block is an association of international contemporary graphic designers. The International Council of Graphic Design Association (ICOGRADA) and the International Biennales Coordinating Committee (IBCC) organized this event.

With the language of art, Bella Logachova describes the latest events in the Ukraine starting with the 2014 Maidan Uprising, also called the Revolution of Dignity, until today. She incorporates the new realities of the country into the format of traditional Ukrainian ornaments. Her work can be found in private and museum collections in Austria, France, Germany, Japan, Poland, Ukraine, and the United States of America.

**“Art distracts and gives strength.”**


Bella Logachova was born and raised in the city of Mariupol, Ukraine and currently lives in Kharkiv. The 2014 annexation of her homeland and the island of Crimea by the Russians shocked her deeply. These events turned her into a political artist.

Bella Logachova's artworks combine traditional Ukrainian embroidery with images of war. She calls this series *ARtNUO (New Ukrainian Ornaments)*. The “ornaments” are expressions of the independent national culture of her home country. Coupled with war symbols, these complex images depict the cruelty and madness of war in all its poignancy.

It is important to Bella Logachova that her art opposes misinformation and lies about the war, especially for Russian citizens. That is why most of the captions in her images and the interview are in Russian. As the artist says: “My art is like news.”

**Sabine Kutt, Independent Curator**



Follow the artist on  Instagram @bellalogachova

**Image Credits:** (this page from top) *Donetsk Airport (Donetsk Sergey Prokofiev International Airport)*, 2015; *Chernobaivka*, 2022; *Bez Viz (Without)*, 2016

## Exhibited Artworks

All Bella Logachova works, printed in 2022, are part of Bella Logachova's **ARtNUO (New Ukrainian Ornaments) Series** and are printed with archival **Ultrachrome Ink on photographic Matte paper, 40 x 40 in.** All works are courtesy of the artist and **Sabine Kutt Photography.**



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**The Dnipro Ukrainian Cultural Center**, located in Buffalo, New York, is working with The Ukrainian American Freedom Foundation to support Ukrainian Humanitarian and Medical Aid. Website: [DniproBuffalo.com](http://DniproBuffalo.com)

**The Print Center**, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is selling *limited edition* prints of Bella Logachova's artwork. All proceeds will go directly to Bella Logachova, who will donate them to a Ukrainian organization that supports soldiers. To purchase art, visit Website: [printcenter.org](http://printcenter.org)

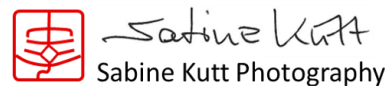


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### Acknowledgements

*Living through War: Works from Kharkiv by Bella Logachova* is made possible by Lead Sponsor KeyBank, along with the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

We thank our exhibition partners, without whom this exhibition would not be complete: the Dnipro Ukrainian Cultural Center and The Print Center. This exhibition was co-curated by Sabine Kutt of Sabine Kutt Photography and Michael J. Beam, Curator of Exhibitions and Special Projects, and was organized by the Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University.



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