



Under the patronage of His Excellency Ambassador of Ukraine in Kingdom of Belgium

Zoia Skoropadenko: Torso Exhibition

NAMAHN Rue de la Limite 21, 1210 Bruxelles

Exhibition Dates: Monday 12th December – Friday 16th December 2016

Press view: Monday 12th January 2016, 16.00

Opening: 12 Decembre 2016, 19.00 ([guestlist ONLY. See below](#))

Controversial “TORSO” series is the seventh in a number of Skoropadenko’s ‘Flash Exhibitions’, exciting shows that are held only for three to five days at a time in unusual locations around the globe. In today’s world of high-speed communication where everything is instant, Skoropadenko believes in the power and immediacy of flash exhibitions.

“TORSO” got a buzz during the solo exhibition of Skoropadenko in Council of Europe in Strasbourg it was controversial and almost kicked out of the institution. A year later exhibition got great reviews from BBC World and France TV after the show in Shooting Range of Royal Stock Exchange in London and in Medieval Courtyard in Paris.

Skoropadenko uses octopi to model her paintings, to build something classical and beautiful. Having explored the whole of art history she doesn’t feel there is anything more intriguing than a torso, whether created by Rodin or painted by Modigliani. She comments, ‘I took my favourite images of torsos and tried to shape them by using an octopus. Then another. And another in different angles. The next morning the Torso series was born. I apologised to my neighbours for the strange smell emanating from my house.’

Skoropadenko then goes to create paintings of her octopus sculptures. She seeks to create something that is intriguing yet accessible that reflects the ancient Greek ideals of beauty and the search for perfection. Emulating the beauty of these Classical masterpieces, Skoropadenko reconsiders and recreates this in a modern way with a modern medium. She describes her works as the ‘Impressionistic New Renaissance Art Pieces’.

The idea became so intoxicating that Skoropadenko started to collect images of torsos from everywhere from which to create more works – she photographed ‘shivering’ statues on the streets and cut out images from auction catalogues and magazines. Skoropadenko cites Monet as one of her main inspirations as she captures the subject rather than the details. Her paintings are softened and blurry bringing out the suggestion of detail referencing the loose brush strokes of the master. To see Torso at its best, step back from the images and gaze at the paintings. Let your mind flesh out the details of a beautiful torso while being mesmerised and repulsed by the forms that greet you.

Lectures: During exhibition time Zoia will give lectures on “**Ukrainian Modern and Contemporary Art**” and a lecture of “**World endless story of Torso in Art**”. **Places are limited to 25.** You can sign for participation in lecture by writing to this email: zoia.skoropadenko@gmail.com

Opening: 12 Decembre 2016, 19.00 . Exhibition will be opened by His Excellency Ambassador of Ukraine in Kindom of Belgium. According to regulations of Namahn we can accept only 70 people for the opening, so please sign for [Guest list at zoia.skoropadenko@gmail.com](mailto:zoia.skoropadenko@gmail.com) or zoias@monaco.mc.

Notes to Editors

Location	Namahn Foundation Rue de la Limite 21, 1210 Bruxelles, Belgium
Opening Hours	5pm-9pm
Admission	Free (for the Opening needs registration on facebook page https://www.facebook.com/events/303009523419366/)
Getting there	The closest metro stations are Madou Station (metro 2 or 6 heading for Elisabeth). Bus 65 heading for Bourget or 65 (barred) for NATO. Bus 66 heading for Tol Péage. Bus 61 heading for Montgomery, get off at Grens/Limite.
Nearest Parking	public car park at Dwarsstraat/rue Traversière 15
Twitter	@Zoiaskoropadenk, #Torsoexhibition #namahn
Instagram	zoiaskoropadenko #torsoexhibition #namahn
Facebook	zoiaskoropadenko
Website	www.zoiaskoropadenko.com www.namahn.com

Zoïa Skoropadenko

Zoïa Skoropadenko was born in Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine, in 1978. From the age of five she was tutored by Ukrainian National Artist Grigory Sinitza.

She then entered the National Art School, Art College and studied at Institute of Fine Arts until Soviet Revolution of 1990 made it impossible to get a proper Art Education without money.

She continued her education in Lviv National University. As a leading student of journalism with a network of international journalist friends she was unceremoniously kicked out of the University for being a spy. As the owner on a PC and modem how could she not be funded by the CIA?

Without a spy's bank account filled with Yankee dollars Zoia nonetheless bounced back.

She hitched hiked around Europe, often sleeping with the homeless and after a long adventure “down and out in Europe” ended up in Monaco and found herself a job.

If you are not the daughter of an oligarch, or a trained and funded CIA operative it isn't easy for a young artist to make ends meet in Monaco.

However the world's most glamorous playground needs multi-lingual translation. So Zoia, who speak 8 languages, found herself working in the art scene and at the same time supporting herself translating.

While helping yacht brokers sell to enterprising East Europeans who had got rich quick she also helped Interpol arrest and interrogate enterprising East European's who were hoping to get rich quick.

Meanwhile she participated in the artistic life of the Cote D'Azur.

Along the way she met such prominent contemporary artists as Arman, Ernst Fuchs, Sosno and Robert Rauschenberg and became a member of National Art Committee, illustrated a book and exhibited.

In 2008 during the economic crisis, times became very tough and to make ends meet, Zoia was to reduce to buying what food was cheapest in the market and docks at the end of the day.

On morning, a kindly local fishermen gave her a bag of octopus for a lunch.

She wanted to eat it, but she had an idea that made her hungrier to create than to fill her stomach.

The idea was to use the Octopus to create art.

And so the kind gift of food became the TORSO series.

3 years later she was discovered by UK artist and 4 years later she had her first show of TORSO in London.

The series was mentioned in influential art magazine Creative Review that opened Zoia's art to the world.

In 2009 she opened her exhibition space of contemporary art in Palais de La Scala in Monaco called "La Vitrine Contemporain" where she exhibits her work as well as contemporary artists from all around the world.

In September 2014, Zoia and her La Vitrine Contemporain was featured of one of the big Reuters screens on Time Square in New York, celebrating a 5th anniversary of the independent contemporary art space in the smallest country in the world

In 2011 Monaco Government granted Zoia the official status of an Artist-Painter of Monaco.

In March 2014 under patronage of Japanese government Zoia organised and curated a charitable event: visit of young artists-survivors from Fukushima in Monaco, meeting Princesse Charlene, local artists, she held an artistic masterclass and exhibited the result in Monaco Japanese Gardens.

In 2013 Zoia signed a creative contract with Monte-Carlo Art Factory - company that produced all touristic and restaurant goods in Monaco, The official supplier of goods of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco. For 3 years Skoropadenko was chosen to represent Ukraine in International Art Salon in Marseille Consul'Art. In 2011 she curated an exhibition of Ukrainian Impressionists in European Parliament.

One of her biggest solo controversial exhibitions of TORSO was held in Council of Europe in Strasbourg under Ukrainian flag. In November 2013 Zoia was invited to speak about being a successful female artist immigrant in European Commission in Brussels

In January 2015 Zoia's exhibition TORSO was invited to be exhibited in Royal Stock Exchange Rifle Club Shooting Range in London. The exhibition had a great success. One of many media coverage was Zoia's interview to BBC World. In February 2015 Zoia had 3 exhibitions two in Paris and one in Monaco.

Skoropadenko's TORSO exhibition was featured in France 2 news as the best exhibition in Paris in February.

Zoia's exhibition "Four Seasons" consecrated to revival of Fukushima and Chernobyl areas was opened in Tokyo in March 2015 by His Excellency Ambassador of Ukraine to Japan Mr.Kharchenko

In November 2016 Zoia inaugurated her sculpture "The Hope" in Soma city in Fukushima Prefecture in presence of local authorities as well as Ukrainian diplomats.

In April 2016 Zoia together with Japanese designer Kenzo Takada commemorated victims of Chernobyl and Fukushima in their joint exhibition that took place in Ukrainian Cultural Center in Paris.

Skoropadenko is a UNESCO recognised artist as well as member of ADAGP. (More about

Skoropadenko at www.zoiaskoropadenko.com/about)

Namahn

Namahn is a human-centered design consultancy based in Brussels, Belgium. Considered a pioneer in human-centered design in Belgium, Namahn is primarily active in the fields of service design and safety-critical design.

www.namahn.com

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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