

Embassy of Ukraine to Japan

Under the patronage of His Excellency Ambassador of Ukraine to Japan

EXHIBITION

12.04.16 - 17.06.16



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Press release

ZOIA SKOROPADENKO: Exhibition commemorating Fukushima and Chernobyl “5*30”

Ukrainian Embassy in Tokyo
Japan, 〒106-0031 東京都港区西麻布3丁目5-31

Exhibition Dates: Wednesday 13 April – Friday 19th June 2016
Press view: Tuesday 12 April 2016, 11am

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Ukraine and Japan are bound by nuclear tragedy.

On 12 of April 2016 Zoia Skoropadenko will open in Tokyo at the Embassy of Ukraine her personal exhibition of emakimono (handscroll) paintings called “5*30” that commemorate everyone who was affected and contemplate her

vision on past and future of areas around Okuma village in Fukushima prefecture and Chernobyl .

The paintings were inspired by ancient Japanese hand scrolls which are telling a story. And so did Zoia, she told the story of a past of these areas as well as tragedy and hope for future. It is a contemporary view on subject representing the passage of time and the emotion of hope.

Time washes away even the most indelible of stain. Hope lightens even the bleakest of vista.

Through the windows of our eyes, our buildings, our cars, our factories, we see our world slowly change from multiple points of view.

Wasteland is reborn. Man not nature finds it hard to return. Fragile nature becomes stronger than humanity in its re-conquest of defiled spaces.

Skoropadenko loves Japan. She comes to Japan as much as allow her busy exhibition schedule. On each trip she takes a courses of traditional Japanese arts and crafts like kintsugi, maki-e, sumi-e. She later incorporates he inspiration of crafts in her paintings. Her exhibition features paintings with imitation of traditional japanese screen paintings, sumi-e, kintsugi. She is using gold and japaese ink.

Skoropadenko did a profound research on history as well as of arts and crafts of the damaged areas Polissia-Chernobyl and Fukushima Prefecture: ancients figurines, glass, ceramic, wood and clay toys etc.

For this exhibition she incorporates in her paintings historic elements (animals,) from ancient traditional Ukrainian ceramic ware from Polissia area where situated a zone of Chernobyl as well as traditional elements of Obori same - traditional crafts from Fukushima (horses, ume flowers etc).

Zoia Skoropadenko is a renowned Ukrainian artist known in her early years as an environmental journalist. She has a personal connection to Chernobyl and Fukushima. About 20 years ago Skoropadenko together with her environmental colleagues from Norway and France visited Chernobyl area during their research, so Skoropadenko is deeply attached

“I want to express hope for Fukushima and Chernobyl, for their regeneration. Time, patience and vision will heal. These paintings are a contemplation of that long path.”

Skoropadenko wanted to see everything with her own eyes, experience the scary, unknown, sad. She walked through the abandoned city Pripiat, teared to pieces by maroders and occupied by nature, visited Power station with its shelter “Ukryttia”, met old people so called “samosely” or “selfsettlers”. 20 year later and 5 years after Great Japanese Earthquake Skoropadenko visited area around Fukushima power station. She came to Soma city in Fukushima prefecture to install and inaugurate her sculpture “The Hope” and to meet art students. But Zoia wanted to see more, to meet locals, see how is everything 5 years later. And so she did.

Notes to Editors

Zoia Skoropadenko will be available for interview or comments in Tokyo from 1 April till 15th April

While in Tokyo Skoropadenko will be painting live outside on plain air in one of the parks in Tokyo. If you are interested in photographing or video, please contact Mme Sakamaki Takayo.sakamaki@gmail.com

Location: Embassy of Ukraine

Opening Hours: 10am-5pm

Admission: Free

Getting there The closest tube stations are Roppongi (on the Hibiya and Toei Oedo lines), Hiroo (on the Hibiya line),

Facebook: Zoia Skoropadenko

Instagram: zoiaskoropadenko

Pintrest: zoiart

Twitter @Zoiaskoropadenk, #Fourseasons

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Zoïa Skoropadenko

Zoïa Skoropadenko was born in Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine, in 1978. It was impossible to be properly educated with money and when she decided to follow her dream of becoming an artist, she survived hungry and homeless until she found a job and moved to Monaco.

There, she participated in the art studio of MAMAC (Museum of Contemporary Art in Nice). she became a member of National Art Committee. Skoropadenko continued pursuing her passions and in 2008, some local fishermen gave her an octopus for a lunch and her Torsos series was born.

4 years later she had her first London exhibition and Creative Review launched her art to the world. In 2009, Skoropadenko opened 'La Vitrine', an exhibition space of contemporary art in Palais de La Scala in Monaco and, in September 2014, Skoropadenko and 'La Vitrine' were featured on one of the big screens in Time Square in New York, celebrating the 5th anniversary of the independent contemporary art space in the smallest country in the world.

For 3 years Zoia Skoropadenko was chosen to represent Ukraine on International Art Salon in Marseille Consul'Art.

In 2011 Skoropadenko curated an exhibition of Ukrainian Industrial Impressionists in European Parliament in Strasbourg.

One of her biggest personal exhibitions was held in Council of Europe in Strasbourg under Ukrainian flag.

In 2011, Monaco Government granted Skoropadenko the official status of an Artist-Painter. She now exhibits regularly across the world including shows in the UK, France, China, USA and now in Japan.

In January and February 2015 Zoia Skoropadenko held two exhibitions in London at Royal Stock Exchange Shooting Range and Paris.

And was reviewed and interviewed by BBC World and France 2.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02hq61c>

<http://culturebox.francetvinfo.fr/le-blog-de-thierry-hay/2015/02/05/zoia-skoropadenko-une-exposition-controversee-dans-un-cloitre.html>

She also worked with The Travelling Whale Association to help children who are Fukushima survivors and wish to become artists. Last year she organised a three days reception of five children from Fukushima in Monaco where they met Princesse Charlene, Mayor of Monaco and visited studios of prominent artists.

Zoia's designs are sold on products around the world.

All enquiries, high res. images and further information:

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Media about Zoia Skoropadenko:

BBC WORLD 2015



The screenshot shows the BBC World Service website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for News, Sport, Weather, Shop, Earth, and More, along with a search bar. Below this is the 'iPlayer Radio' logo and a 'Sign in' button. The main content area features the 'Outlook' program logo and a video player. The video player shows a woman, Zoia Skoropadenko, working with octopus tentacles. Below the video player, there is a caption: 'Making Sculptures out of Octopus'. The caption reads: 'The Ukrainian artist Zoia Skoropadenko makes controversial art works out of octopus. She shapes pieces of the underside creatures into human forms before capturing them on camera. When the European Council invited her to Strasbourg, they were horrified by her "Torso" collection and wanted to take it down. The BBC's Nick Freeman has been to see them and meet the artist.' There is also a small thumbnail image of the artist and a 'This clip is from Outlook' label.

FRANCE 2015



The screenshot shows the France 24 website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'CULTUREBOX', 'ACTU', 'LIVE', and 'ÉMISSIONS'. Below this is a search bar and a navigation menu with links for 'LA UNE', 'CINÉMA', 'EXPOSITIONS', 'MUSIQUE', 'SCÈNES', 'TÉMOIGNAGES', and 'LIVRES'. The main content area features a large image of a sculpture made from octopus tentacles. Below the image, there is a headline: 'Zoia Skoropadenko : Torso, une exposition controversée dans un cloître'. The article text reads: 'La sculpture, naissance de l'âme de l'ère à nos jours. Zoia Skoropadenko : Torso, une exposition controversée dans un cloître. Les sculptures déconcertantes sculptées de Zoia Skoropadenko. Les inspirations caennaises et romanesques de Benjamin Labèque. Vézère : le souffle de la modernité et l'assurance de classique. RECHERCHE. ARTICLES RÉCENTS. RECENT COMMENTS.'

TELEVISION

CNBC 2014

The screenshot shows the CNBC website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the CNBC logo and various menu items like 'HOME U.S.', 'NEWS', 'MARKETS', 'INVESTING', 'TECH', 'SMALL Biz', 'VIDEO', 'SHOWS', 'PIPETIME', 'WATCH LIVE', and 'PRO'. Below the navigation bar, there are several promotional banners, including one for 'Dockers' and another for 'Golden Vacancies'. The main content area features a 'PRESS RELEASES' section with a headline: 'Monte-Carlo Art Factory presents Zoia's Skoropadenko latest work'. The article is dated 'Wednesday, 17 Dec 2014 1:52 PM ET'. To the right of the headline are social media sharing icons for Twitter, Facebook, Google+, LinkedIn, and Email, along with a 'COMMENTS Start the Discussion' link. Below the headline, there is a small image of a woman holding a porcelain piece. The article text begins with 'MONTE-CARLO, Monaco, Dec. 17, 2014 /PRNewswire-IRBC/ - Monte-Carlo Art Factory, Royal patent holder of His Serene Highness Prince of Monaco, is pleased to present Zoia Skoropadenko's luxury limited edition illustrated porcelain, featuring iconic views of magical Monaco. From the glitz of the Monte-Carlo casino, to the majesty of the Royal Palace, across the legendary Monaco marina and along the romantic...'. On the right side of the article, there is a small graphic for the CNBC app with the text 'Download the new CNBC app!' and an image of the app on a smartphone.

Reuters Screen Time Square in New York, USA 2014

