



## **UKRAINIAN ARTIST PAINTS SAKURA AT NIGHT AND LOOKING FORWARD TO COME BACK FOR HANAMI SEASON TO JAPAN NEXT YEAR**

**Press release.**

**31 March 2022**

It is a Sakura time in Japan.

**Monaco based Ukrainian artist Zoia Skoropadenko used to come to Japan at this glorious time to exhibit and paint for many years.**

For many years every March Zoia was coming to Tokyo for few weeks wondering Chidorigafuchi, Ueno and Sumida parks, Meguro River and Shinjuku Gyoen at night depicting beauty of sakura season. Skoropadenko started the series “Sakura at night” about 10 years ago, and was following her spring tradition of coming to Japan from year to year.

All stopped in 2020 with COVID restrictions and now because of War in Ukraine. But Skoropadenko still believe that troubles will be left behind soon and she will be back to Japan for a glorious spring time to continue her spring Japanese tradition and work on art series “Sakura at night”. Meanwhile, in 2022 she is depicting French sakura on Rive Gauche in Paris. While she is exhibiting her ceramics during DecoOff event in French Capital.

### ABOUT “SAKURA AT NIGHT” SERIES

Skoropadenko started sketch and paint sakura at night because of a unique light condition of a night.

To paint sakura in bright spring time daytime doesn’t do the delicate flowers justice. But at night when the admiring crowds have gone, after a midnight when the last train left the station, Tokyo becomes calm and empty.

Then only the faint light somewhere inside the sakura lights up the darkness and the strange shadows cast by the hundred years old cherry trees.

Skoropadenko is using the night for ‘plein-air’ painting to capture the ephemeral beauty of the Sakura.

Painting in low light, is following in the footsteps of all greats: Caravaggio, Rembrandt, Toulouse-Lautrec. They had no bright artificial light to paint by. Their studios had no huge windows to let the light of the day in. To experience their art to the fullest, to see its luminosity, you need the subdued light of a pre-electric powered world.

Skoropadenko uses black paper, Japanese oil pastel and Japanese ink for her creations. As she works she can hardly see the results in the gloom, she has to feel, almost smell the pastel and ink on the paper.

The night extracts from her a unique color palette, the picture opens to vibrancy like a Sakura flower when struck by the warm light of the sun.

The Sakura season is still in bloom in . Skoropadenko is going to do her night sessions until the rain washes away the pink flowers for another year.

All enquiries, high res. images and further information:

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Zoia Skoropadenko “Sakura at night”. Holbein Oil pastel on black paper.



Zoia Skoropadenko sketching sakura at Chiadorigafuchi, Tokyo.

## About Zoia Skoropadenko

Zoia Skoropadenko was born in 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.

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.

In 2015 The sculpture "The Hope" was inaugurated by Ukrainian Embassy in Soma City in Fukushima. Another "The Hope" entered the National Ukrainian Art Collection and is visible in front of Museum of Chernobyl in Kyiv.

Zoia Skoropadenko sketching sakura at Chiadorigafuchi, Tokyo.

Skoropadenko was a special guest at Tokyo Art Fair in 2019.

Her artworks is on show of many international art fairs like Toronto Art Fair, LA Art Fair, Pulse Miami, etc.

After surviving COVID in spring 2022 Skoropadenko founded artistic circle which organized 5 exhibitions a year in Paris showcasing works of prominent contemporary artists as well as unique pieces of old masters from private collections.



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