

VIKI BERG



Struggle for Freedom, 2022

Acrylic yarns, 118x120 cm

ARTIST STATEMENT

The rug is made in the style of collage where each element is a symbol of what is happening in Ukraine. Since the start of the war every day rockets have been flying on my hometown of Kharkiv, they are falling from the sky where Russian planes are flying illegally. Rockets explode and everything is on fire and soot after the shells.

The sunflower as a symbol of the sun that is amidst the clouds and fog from the fires.

Also the sunflower is what the Russian soldiers burn the fields, every day, by the hectares. Where wheat, corn, sunflowers and other burning crops grow. And many in Europe already feel a shortage of food products from Ukraine.

Vyshyvanka ornament as a symbol of cultural code, as a unity with our ancestors who fought for decades for the sovereignty of the state, culture, customs, mentality. From here the red threads are hanging, it shows that every day the blood of children, civilians and military because of the difference.

Taras Shevchenko is a Ukrainian artist and poet, the personification of Ukrainian freedom. This is a man who fought to write, to think in his native language, he spoke about the difference of Ukrainians and united our people.

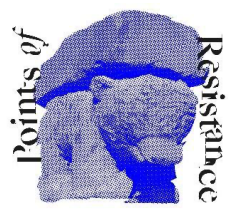
But there are blue-and-yellow sloses running down his cheeks because after more than two hundred years, we're fighting Russia again for freedom, for our culture, for a quiet life, for our identity, and for our sovereign state.

And it's in the form of a postage stamp, because my only connection to home is the post office.

BIO

I'm a Ukrainian artist from Kharkiv. At the moment in Berlin. I create handmade carpets in collage style - it helps to convey the feelings of what is going on in my life. I'm interested in showing reality with the cultural history of my

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country. For me, tufting is a way to redefine my identity by turning to the ancient technique of weaving, as my female ancestors have done for centuries, but in new contemporary forms.

For the artists I work with, working with tufting is an opportunity to look at their art from a different angle, a chance to try it in a new kind of visual, textural and tactile sensation.