



EXHIBITION  
**ON THE EDGE  
OF THE FUTURE**

Sergiy TKACHENKO | Serhiy VILGANOVSKIY



### Sergiy TKACHENKO

Artist – IDP (internally displaced person), civil society activist, expert on the development of territorial communities, project manager of the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine, founder ART HUB «T-Creator».

Born and raised in Kropyvnytskyi (central Ukraine). He lived in Donetsk for about 20 years, where he was engaged in the development of civil society since his student years. After the beginning of the military aggression of the Russian Federation in the East of Ukraine, he was forced to move to Kyiv with his family. He started painting at this time, so the pain and suffering of people who lost their homes are often reflected in his paintings.

He chose painting and drawing as one of the tools for learning about the surrounding world and searching for inner meanings

You can familiarize yourself with Serhiy's work in social networks by following the link:



Instagram



Facebook



### Serhiy VILGANOVSKIY

Professional artist, art director, teacher of the VilGanovskiy T-Studio. Born in Donetsk. In 1984, he graduated from the art school, and from 1984 to 1985 he studied at the Donetsk Art College. From 1993 to 1995, he completed courses at the Drushlag workshop, Abakan (Republic of Khakassia). Taught drawing in children's institutions. Multiple laureate of national and international exhibitions of paintings, drawings, posters. After the occupation of parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in 2014, Serhiy's mother and other close relatives remained in Donetsk, so the topic of displaced persons, occupation and war is very close to him.



Instagram



Facebook

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In times of war and global «concussion», which does not bypass anyone, values that have neither national-religious affiliation nor social-material status remain the most relevant everywhere and always, namely: love, humanity and mutual aid. However, life constantly proves to us that what we risk losing often becomes our valuable priority. And once again Freedom became our first priority. It was like that in 2004, 2014, and it is like that now.

It is one thing to inherit freedom as an integral attribute of everyday life. And it is completely different – when this freedom was suffered, cried, waited in the occupation, when in times of despair it seemed to you that everything was irretrievably lost, but with the last strength you continued to work and believe that the time of liberation will certainly come.

Unfortunately, it is after such upheavals that we begin to distinguish true values from the value of other things, clearly understand cause-and-effect relationships, and protect what we cannot imagine our future life without.

**Our motivating factor is not the fear of death, but the fear of life, which will be maimed and torn apart if the Russians «come» to our homes.** This is the fear that we will not plan our future and the future of our state in time and space. It is the fear that our children will not grow up at home, love and study the history of other countries, remembering their own with pain in their hearts.

**Perhaps we have not yet dreamed of what our country should be like after victory, but we are fighting for the right and freedom to independently de-fine, shape and fill this future with meaning. This is our freedom!**

**We (Ukrainians) do not want such a life that we cannot create ourselves. They (Russians) do not want a death that demonstrates the meaninglessness of their lives. And this is our dignity!**

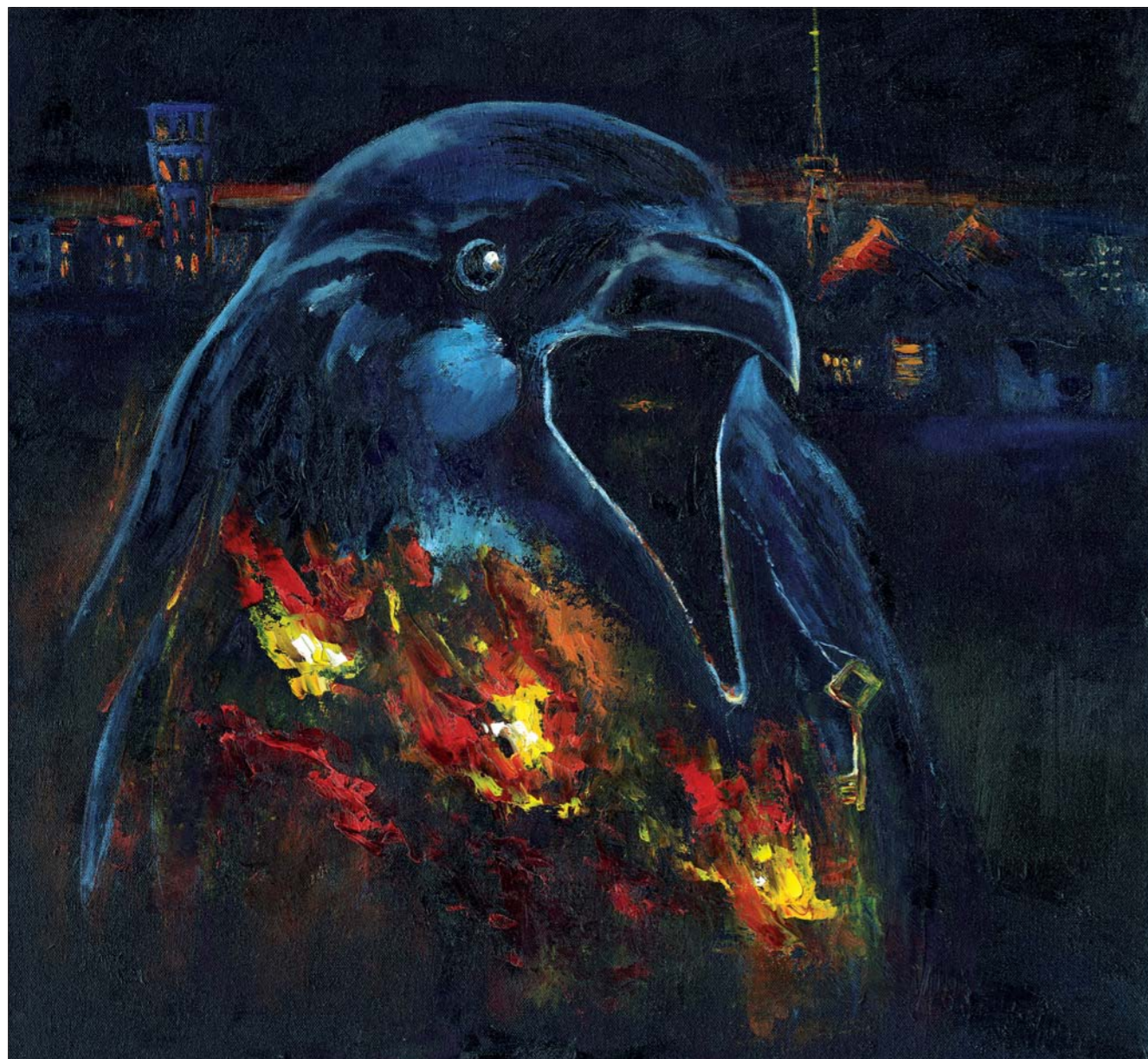
**But we still need to learn to create a common future and go «toward» it. To go to our best creation – to the synergy of all creations and creators who will dream up the future of Ukraine and its own future in it.**

The exhibition «On the edge of the future» is the result of the collaboration of Ukrainian artists who, with the help of artistic images and works, sought not only to depict the horrors of this war and the heroic struggle of the Ukrainian people, but also to pose questions to Ukrainian society and encourage the search for answers to them: For the sake of which life and for the sake of which future are we waging this struggle? What is so valuable in our future that gives us the strength to face this «universal evil» again and again? What will be our answer to the question: Who are we? Where are we and what kind of world do we live in? What is our relationship with this world and in the end why all this?

During the war, all of us were united with the goal of victory over the Russians on our native land. This is the goal and there is a common understanding that if we do not achieve it, it will destroy our future and lead to a crippled future of our country. But we need a common sense of existence in peacetime as well. The same goal should unite people even after the victory.

**We are fighters for our own future – this is a fact recognized by many of our international friends and partners. But we still need to become integral creators of our own future, finding the great meaning of our common existence.**

This exhibition is also the desire of the artists to draw attention to the problems of forcibly displaced persons, many of whom left their homes as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation, do not adapt well to new conditions, are constantly suffering from economic troubles and dream of the return of the occupied people and territories of Ukraine; to demonstrate and emphasize the unity of Ukraine in its attitude to the war and its causes, as well as to counter information manipulation and distortion of history. Creative and cultural products are also a part of historical memory, which can be physically destroyed, but it is practically impossible to fake. It is also an attempt to show how creativity can overcome the consequences of psychological trauma and get rid of post-traumatic syndrome. How to get out of the dark corridors of consciousness to the light.



Sergiy Tkachenko

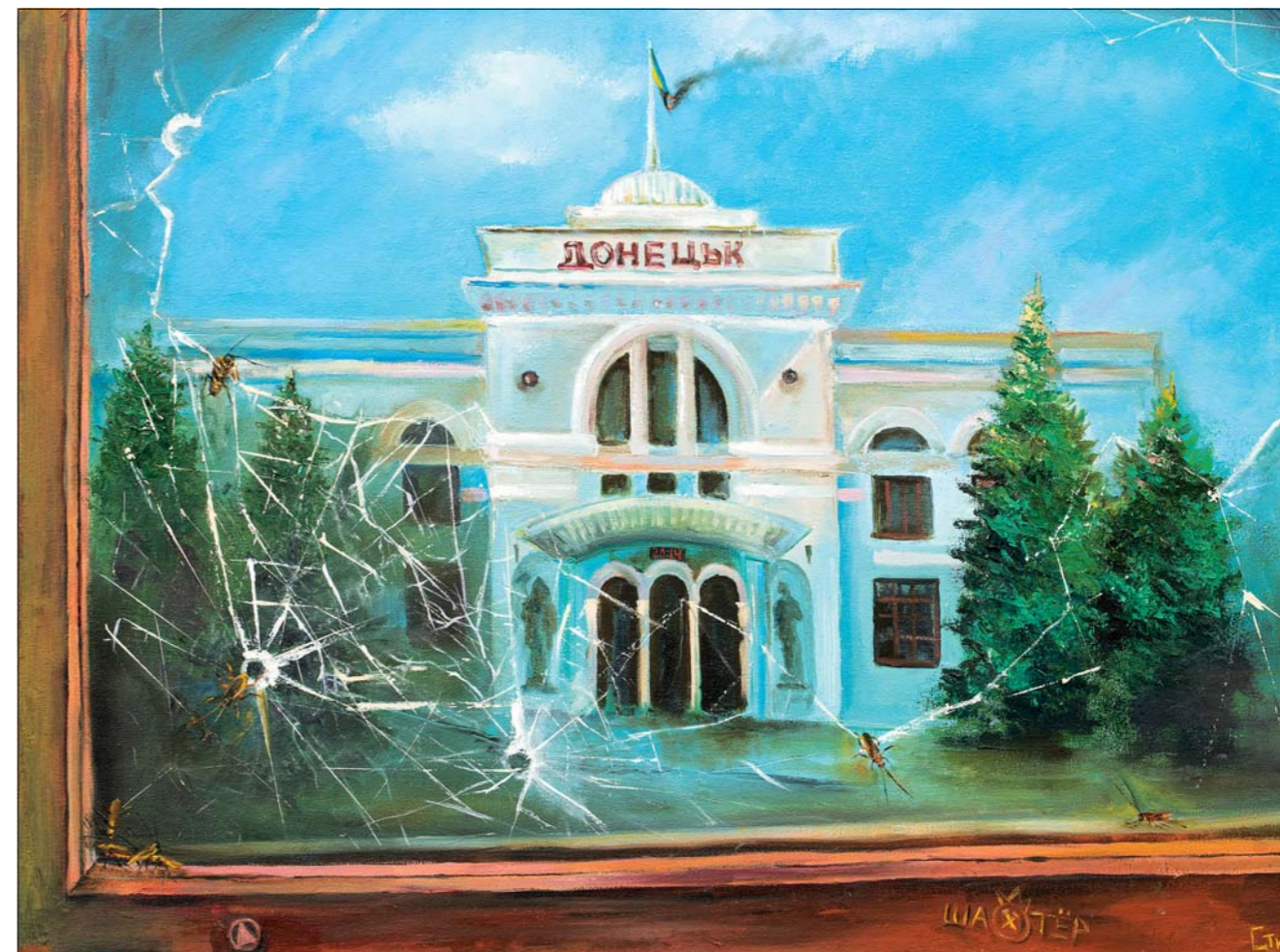
## PROPHECY

Many of us encountered the predatory grimace of the «Russian peace» in Donetsk for the first time during the organization and holding of pro-Ukrainian rallies in 2014.

When in response to a smiling child face wrapped in a yellow and blue scarf, you saw the beastly grin of hatred, the thirst for blood and the poisonous eyes of others – it instantly turned your inner world upside down, forcing you to quickly analyse the situation and make appropriate decisions.

Someone then for the first time crept in fear for family and friends, others moved from demon-strating a common position at pro-Ukrainian manifestations to confronting and fighting with weapons in their hands.

We may not have fully realized then what «universal forces of evil» we were facing, but we intuitively already felt that the worst was yet to come. That the «black crow» has already made its prophecy, and these tests must be passed to prove that our values and faith are not empty words.



Sergiy Tkachenko

## INVASION

Each of the internally displaced people from the Eastern Ukraine has their own day when he or she first left their home, their Donetsk, Luhansk...

For me it is June 5, 2014. It was on this day that my wife and I left Donetsk, which was not controlled anymore by the Ukrainian authorities.

Almost 9 years ago – after many weeks of stress, tired of the constant danger and absurdity that quickly spread to the territory and the brains of people – my family and I left Donetsk, leaving everything in the former life.

At that time, we did not know how many of these «new» lives we would have. At that time, it seemed to us that it was only for a few weeks (because there was a lot of work left at home), then it seemed that all this absurdity should end by the end of summer 2014 (because children have to go to school in Donetsk from September 1).

A few more personal internal deadlines, which also quickly melted into a haze of unjustified expectations.

An honest conversation with myself began much later, when it came to the realization that your home is where you are loved and where you have the opportunity to give love and care to your family and friends. Everything else is a connection to things, comfort and your own «ego».

For 9 years, my family and I have lived in Kyiv, trying to get rid of psychological trauma, settle in a new place and believe that one day we will be able to return to our Ukrainian Donetsk.

On February 24, 2022, at 5 am, when we learned about the Russian invasion and the beginning of a full-scale war, the first thought that came to my mind was that «history repeats itself», we have already gone through it, but unlike 2014, this time everything will be different and we have to «pass this maturity exam».



Sergiy Tkachenko

## KULI-BABA

**P**utin's favorite theses about «one folk» did not appear by chance – behind this is the fear of losing his own identity. And if not one folk? So what to do and how to live with it?

If only by the fact of our own existence, we Ukrainians destroy their pretended greatness and demonstrate their historical incompetence – this a priori cannot be liked.

From everything, it turns out that in this paradigm created by the Russians, war is the only meaning and way of their existence.

And as long as this mental dissonance persists in the minds of our northern enemies, there will be no peace for us.

No territories of Donbass and Southern Ukraine will be able to quell their fear of losing their own identity, the fear of being exposed for the fact that they simply stole history from their neighbors, and they no longer remember their own, and what they do remember, they don't really care about...

It is this component that indicates that for Ukraine, victory in this war is the only chance for state, social, and biological survival.

In case of our defeat, Russia will not only kill and repress the Ukrainian elite and the active part of our citizens. Ukraine will simply be «erased» from history (as it was done for many centuries in a row and as Kyiv Rus was recently erased from Russian history textbooks).

But as long as we defend our land, this «historical game» continues and our confidence that light will defeat darkness leaves no chance for evil to win.



Sergiy Tkachenko

## 5th OF MARCH

**M**arch 5, 2014 – the beginning of public resistance in Donbas to the Russian occupation.

It was on this day that more than 10,000 patriotic Donetsk residents came to the largest rally in the central square of the city, in order to tell the whole world that Donetsk is Ukraine.

In those difficult, uncertain conditions, completely defenseless peaceful people began the struggle for United Ukraine, for its European future. In just a few months, this peaceful struggle turned into a volunteer, volunteer and partisan resistance movement that continues to this day. As they will say later, on that day, «10 thousand brave people came to the square – for the sake of the united millions.»

This was the spontaneous response of Ukrainian Donetsk to all the «darkness» that the Kremlin launched from the first days of spring 2014.

Our struggle for the Ukrainian Donbas has been going on for all these 9 years.

The painting «5th of March» is an attempt to use artistic images and works to draw attention to the problems of the occupied territories and forcibly displaced persons who left their homes as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation in the East of Ukraine; to demonstrate and emphasize the unity of Ukraine in its attitude to the war and its causes, as well as to counter information manipulation and distortion of history. Creative and cultural products are also a part of historical memory, which can be physically destroyed, but it is practically impossible to fake.

The painting «5th of March» has a certain peculiarity – it is impossible to find and see the monument to V. I. Lenin in the central square of Donetsk. Having carried out the «creative de-communization» of the central square, the artist demonstrates his own vision of the future of his hometown, in which there is no place for communist symbols and totalitarian decadence, which still continues to bring pain and suffering to the residents of Donbas.

The fight continues and victory will be ours!

In July 2021 this painting was purchased by the State Administration of Affairs and presented to the leadership of Germany during the official visit of the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy to Germany.

Sergiy Tkachenko  
**DONETSK SPEAKS**



« In April-May (2014) hostages were already taken in Donetsk. And the seized basements of the SSU were affectionately nicknamed «hut». It was there that people burned their heels with a soldering iron, broke their fingers and hammered nails into their knees. This was done by the Russian Orthodox Army. Don't you have one yet? The hostages could be ransomed. Sometimes quite inexpensive. The lucky ones left captivity for a thousand dollars, the unlucky – for the price of an apartment. The fate of many is still unknown. Their number is multiplying. People continue to be caught, and sometimes this hunt takes on a thematic character. The latest fashion is priests of different denominations. The penultimate hobby is cyclists. At one time in Donetsk, it was considered safer to ride a bicycle. It seems like not in an expensive car, and at the same time not on the sidewalk with machine gunners. Cyclists are now considered spies. First, they had their teeth knocked out. Now they are gone. In minibuses or trolleybuses is also good. Any couple with machine guns could arrange an identity check. Passports were not touched, only purses were taken away... Already in May, signs were hanging on the shops. Either modest «Closed» or desperate «Do not hit the window! Everything has already been stolen.» One can understand: May 28 in Donetsk will be remembered as a major victory for the «Russian world» – the Day of the capture of the «Metro». Then there was the Day of the capture of «Donetsk City», «Varus» and other smaller stores...

*Remember: if you call on Russia and the «Russian world», it will come to you just as he came to us in Donetsk».*  
 (Information bulletin «Donetsk speaks». 2014. No. 11)

Serhiy Vilganovskiy  
**STRANGER – REALITY**



The main antagonist of the picture is «Alien» from the film of the same name by R. Scott. He, like the hero of the movie, came to enslave, to make the population of a neighboring state a food supplement. He does not kill the inhabitants of the captured territories, he lays his «larva» in them, which feeds on the inner energy of a person and, gradually growing, captures his personality. Holding the Shakhtar sculpture (the symbol of Donetsk), the monster, like a voodoo totem, controls the city's residents, trying to take away both the «black gold» and the soul itself.



Sergiy Tkachenko

## A REFUGEE FROM WAR

For most Ukrainians, February 24, 2022 became a kind of «watershed» between past and present life.

With the beginning of the full-scale war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, my life, like the lives of most Ukrainians, changed forever, taking away in the past a feeling of security, a certain comfort, confidence in the future and joy. Everything changed in an instant...

In this existential war for our independence and our existence in this world, we began to live the future Day of our Victory.

Every day, raising funds for the needs of our military, helping to find shelter and basic facilities for IDPs, working and rebuilding infrastructure or just flipping through the news, we consciously, with all our forces and thoughts, approach the Day of our victory over evil and darkness.

However, it is only now that many people are starting to realize that for millions of Ukrainians, this war began 9 years ago, with Russia's annexation of Crimea and the occupation of parts of eastern Ukraine.

Millions of residents of Donetsk and Luhansk regions passed their first «point of no return» in 2014, with the beginning of the war in Donbass, when in an instant came the realization that as it was, will never be...

The picture is dedicated to all those who still «carry» memories of their past lives, who cried their eyes out for what they left behind, but did not lose faith in a better future.



Serhiy Vilganovskiy  
**FROM A SPARK...**

Native cities are bleeding, covered with ice of horror and gunpowder from enemy shots. Native cities as silent witnesses of separation, as tireless chronographs of wanderings, record crimes against freedom and truth. They reject the disgusting vestiges, ring with broken windows, cry black tears. Hometowns ache, take your breath away with dawn in the steppes of Donbas, delicate dusk in Irpen, salty touch of Berdyansk. Native cities.



Serhiy Vilganovskiy

## ALWAYS REMEMBER WHAT COLORS YOUR HEART IS

Many residents of Donetsk, who were forced to leave their homes back in 2014, can find in this picture the features of their native city, the city of millions of roses. Indescribably beautiful roses and an alarming distance from where this tired but unconquered Amazon moves forward. She carries all the pain and grief from injustice and horrors, traumatic memories that divided the world into «before» and «after». She carries her yellow-blue heart, which is not accidentally contained behind Leonardo's golden triangle, towards a world without borders, regimes and pseudo-history, which are only satisfied with the rotten apple of discord.

War has a female face. The wrinkles that covered it prematurely still retain the salty moisture of sleepless nights. The look is longing, the voice is quiet: «Are you alive son?».

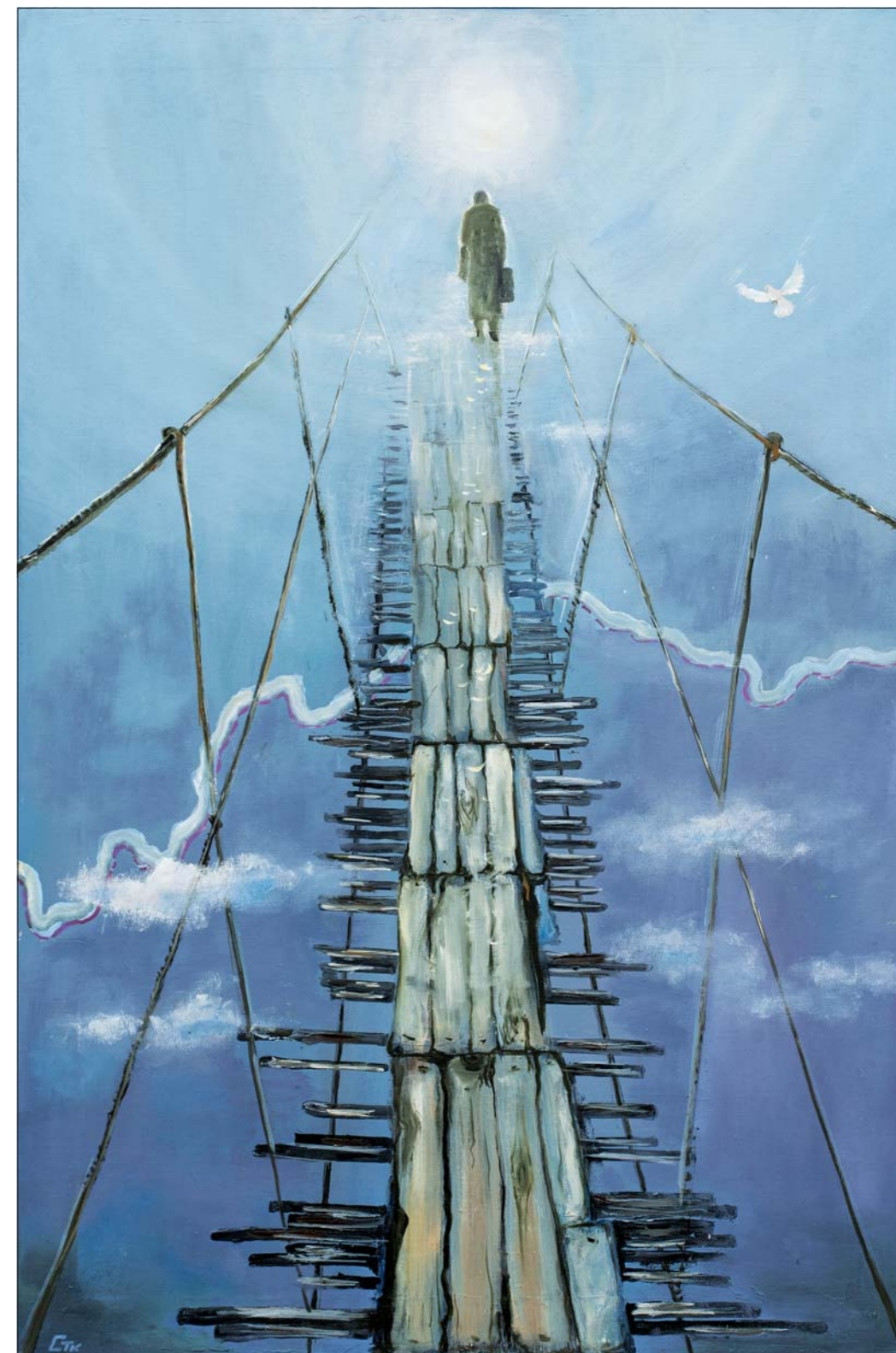
War has a child's face. The gaze of the slob and the shoulders are hunched, the ear hears the rumble of «Grads», which is receding, from the city, where neither buses nor trains go anymore.

War has a male face. Rough and weathered. Fingers yellow from the smoke of strong cigarettes rub the head near the temple.

In the war, your face makes its way through anger and despair at the sound of sirens and air raid signals.

In the war, your face, which has forever absorbed the disturbing background and military context from dry news reports about «Cargo 200» and «Cargo 300».

Your face is at war. You have something to mourn. You have things to remember and things you would like to forget.



Sergiy Tkachenko  
**SHAKY WAR**

«As of December 1, 2022, 4.7 million internally displaced persons were registered in Ukraine. Since the beginning of the full-scale war with the Russian Federation, more than 14.5 million citizens have already left Ukraine, of which at least 11.7 million people – entered the countries of the European Union. 7.7 million are registered in Europe as seekers for temporary protection,» said Dmytro Lubinets, the Human Rights Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada.

Life is about pain, and forgiveness always takes something, but it always gives something instead of the lost. A cruel but invaluable lesson in realizing that your home is not a point on the map, it is where you are loved and where you can give your love to others.

Of course, I believe that we will return both the «occupied people» and the occupied territories. As Don Juan said, everything that happens in a person's life is a matter of his inner strength, and the task of a warrior is to gradually accumulate this strength until a square centimetre of luck appears.



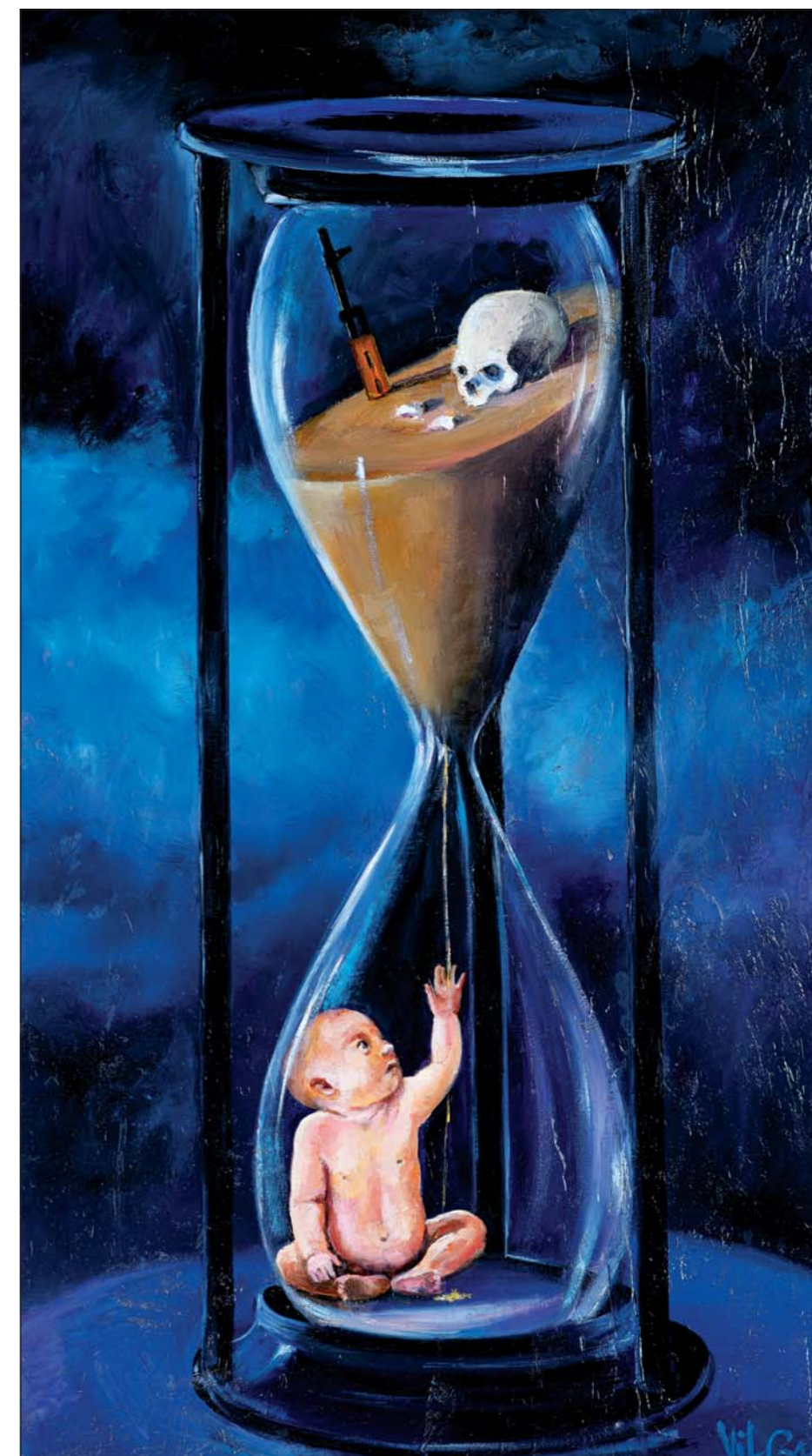
Sergiy Tkachenko

## IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STYX

According to ancient Greek mythology, the carrier of the dead to the kingdom of Hades (Charon) transported the souls of people who left this life across the river Styx, in one direction and without the right of return. The river gave oblivion and peace to all «travelers». Those who left their previous lives were not able to take anything with them except the coin (one obol) that Charon demanded as payment for this «transportation» service.

As a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, millions of people crossed their conditional Styx without Charon's permission with the desire to start a new life in which there is no place for war, aggression and fear for the lives of relatives and loved ones. How often can we hear from people who were forced to leave their homes and leave everything that filled their lives with meaning, a phrase like: «In a past life I was (was)...», «In our previous life, when we lived in...», «Do you remember once...?»... Sometimes it seems that Charon stopped his boat in the middle of the river, and Styx did not give everyone oblivion, leaving people with memories of our zero life. And these memories still fill the consciousness of forced migrants with pain, sadness, sometimes suffering, but also often with hope and hope for return.

Often these memories support our faith in Victory and maybe they are our chance to return?!



Serhiy Vilganovskiy

## BETWEEN THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

Plunging into emptiness and overgrown with hopelessness, time closes and itself becomes emptiness. Born in this vacuum, it seems that this is your own unique world, consisting of golden sand. And every grain of sand is a beautiful moment of life, love, your personal experiences, your little happiness. Over time, the flow of these grains of sand grows and it seems that happiness will be eternal. But one day it breaks off. Everything ends at once. Everything you lived by disappears, your unique peace is destroyed, the feeling of happiness and love disappears without a trace. Only emptiness remains. This is war.





Serhiy Vilganovskiy

## STOLEN SPRING

This year, gray from beginning to end, very generously splashed blood-red across the fields, forests, cities and villages of our motherland. This color is always a symbol of suffering and pain, a symbol of loss and separation, a personification of bloody rivers that flooded our fertile lands. But red has other shades. And they will become the symbols of our dawn, the rebirth of a new free life, the bright sun that will warm and help the endless fields of planting to descend.



Serhiy Vilganovskiy

## WAITING FOR A MIRACLE

Another morning of an endless February, cruel and bloody, does not begin with the care-free hum of a family breakfast, not with children's corny laughter, not with the harmonious hum of a once happy city, hurrying to work, hurrying to meet a new day and create miracles. Although there are only miracles left, miracles and sadness, miracles and pain, miracles and hope that we will persevere, blow away the gray smoke, wipe away the black tears. And the singing will ring out again, it will spill through the tired streets into new homes with ancient traditions and eternal values, and a memory in which the code of who we were, what we are and will definitely be engraved forever with the scars of human hearts.

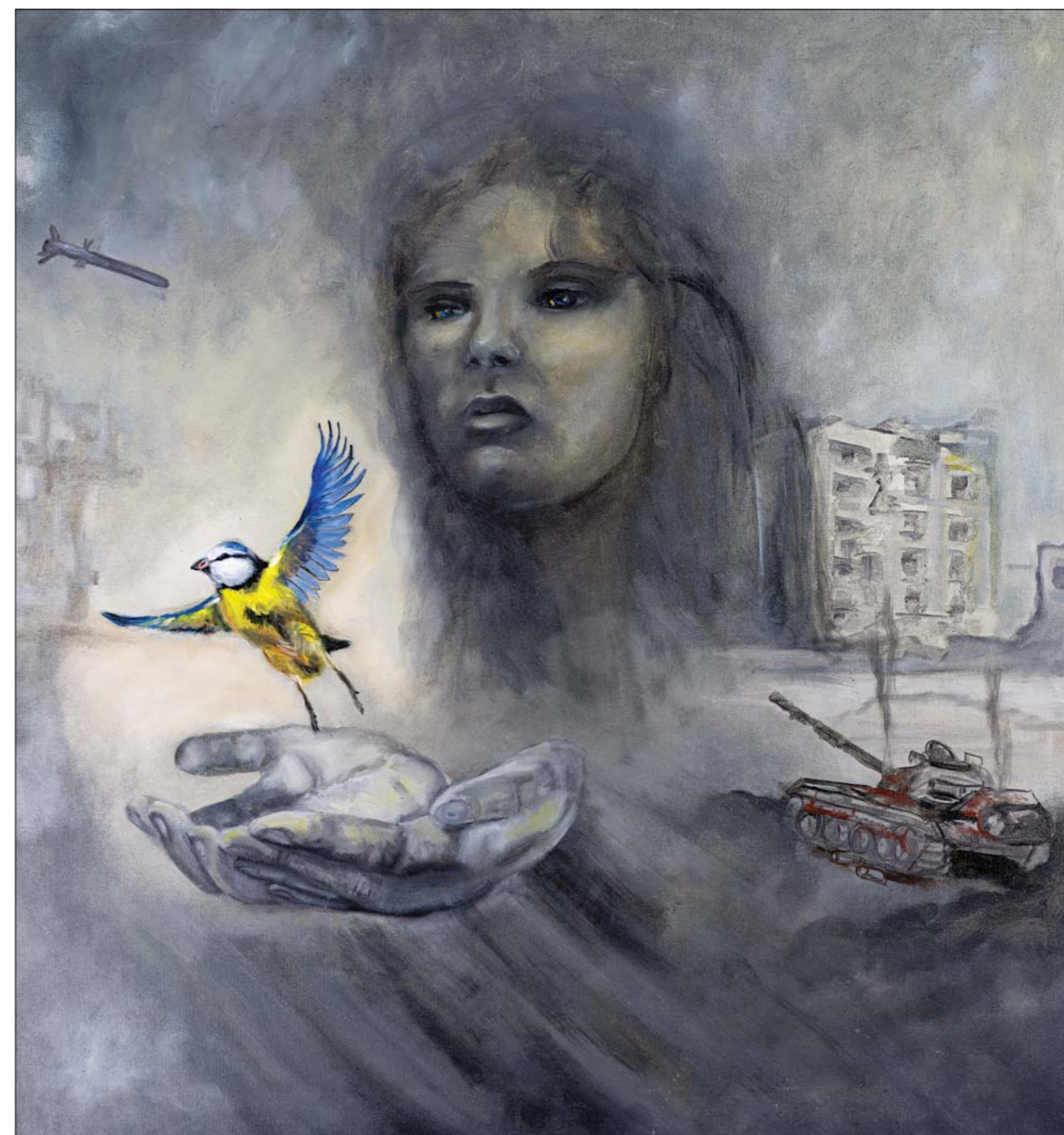


Serhiy Vilganovskiy

## THE TREASURE OF MY FALK

When there are no words  
when the tears stopped  
when broken to pieces  
life without turning  
when the old worlds  
and ordinary and simple  
appear in dreams  
live in their thoughts  
nothing will erase the pain  
nothing washes away the fear  
except new life  
besides joy and colors,  
will not fade into oblivion  
the treasure of my people  
I can't see home  
no city landscape  
I paint the day  
I won't sleep at night  
but the song time will come  
and holidays, believe me!

Коли бракує слів,  
коли не стало сліз,  
коли розбите вщент  
життя без вороття,  
коли старі світи  
і звичні і прості  
з'являються у снах,  
живуть собі в думках,  
ніщо не зітре біль,  
ніщо не змиє страх,  
крім нового життя,  
крім радості і фарб,  
не піде в небуття  
мого народу скарб,  
ні мого дому вид,  
ні міста краєвид,  
я розмалюю день,  
не буду спати ніч,  
але прийде пісень  
і свята час, повір!

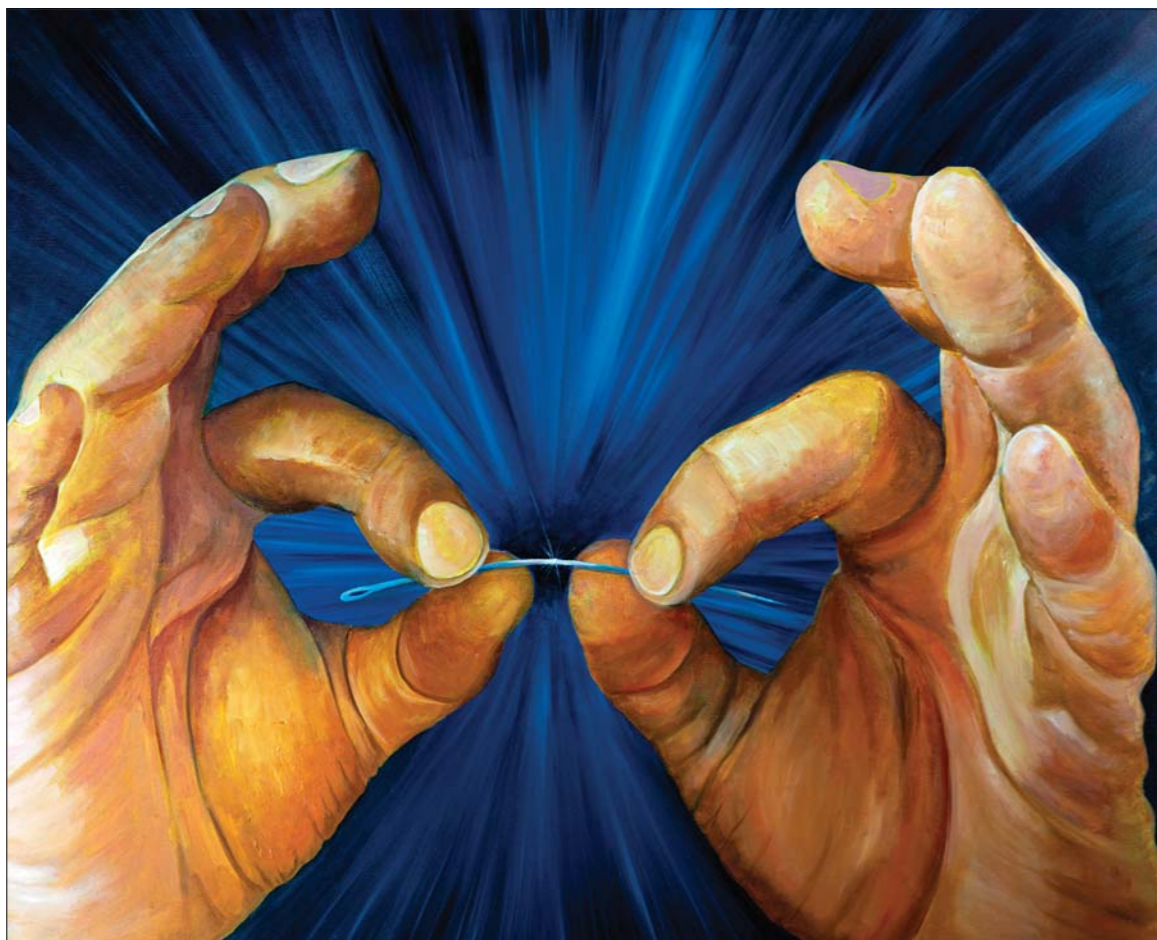


Sergiy Tkachenko

## ERA OF THE HEART

«It's strange that there are such opposite people along the same missile trajectory. Some, releasing them, bring death, we create life. They eat fear, we radiate courage. We are creating civilization, they are ready to destroy the Planet. I would stop this war, right now, if I could, but we will do it together, because we are one and we always knew it before this war started. Each nation has its own destiny! Who are we? Why are we like this? Because we are unique... We will build some-thing on these ruins, on our ruins. 300 years ago, the incomparable Skovoroda said: «The era of the heart will come!» Now is our time to do it. Because only the human heart can resist the war. We are bright people and this is our strength. War makes people callous, hard, cruel. It is extremely important for us to keep our feelings for each other. And in this our victory is to be one whole, Ukraine!».

*(From Ruslana's speech during the awarding of volunteers at the 11th Forum for the Development of Civil Society of Ukraine on December 5, 2022)*



Sergiy Tkachenko

## DEATH OF KOSCHEI

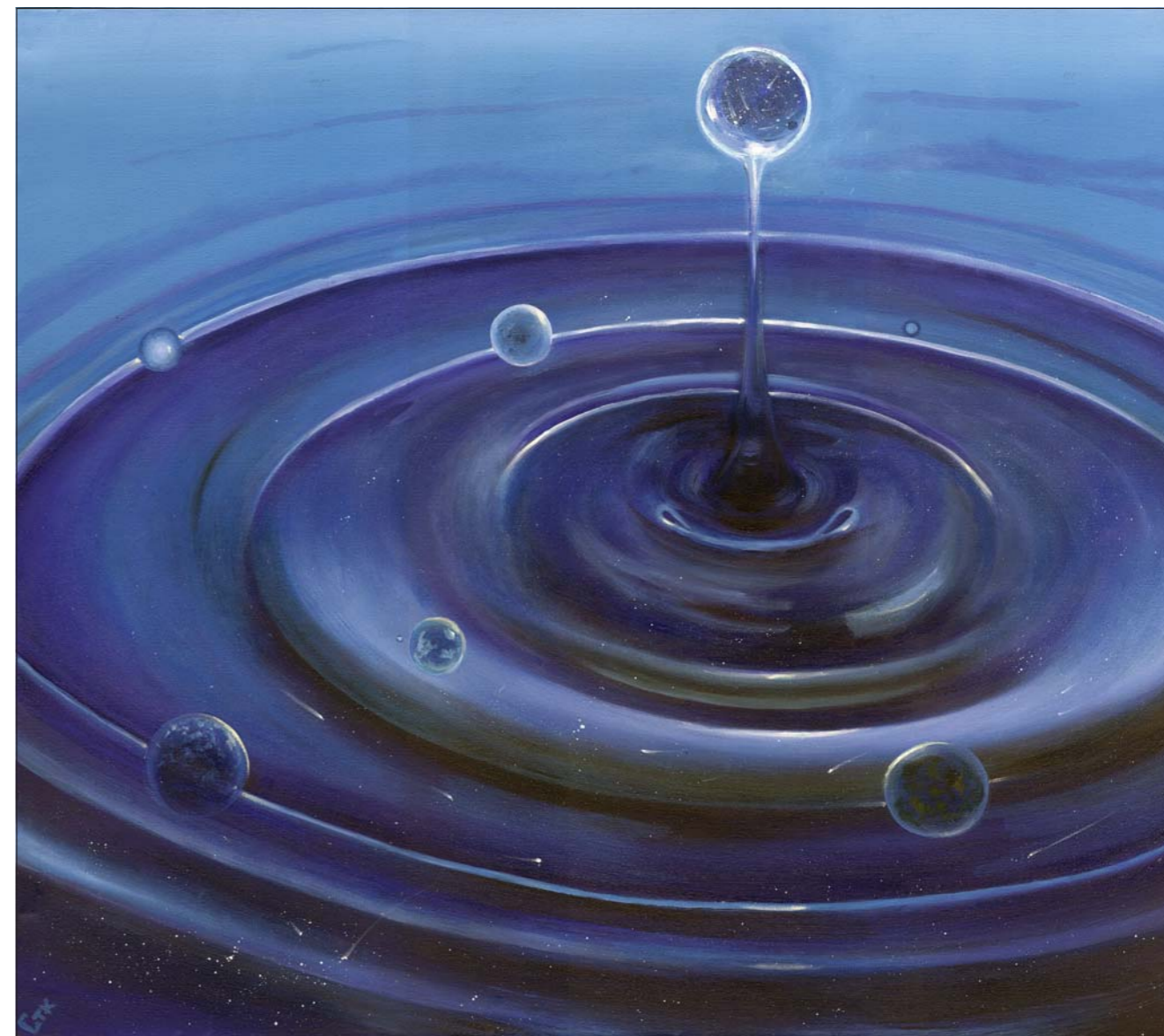
For many centuries, we were convinced that the bloody corpse is the eternal lord of darkness, and woe betide those peoples whose lands will fall under his eye. For many centuries, our ancestors fought with countless hordes of skinned slaves, dreaming of their own state, a free life and the freedom of their descendants. For many centuries, we have been convinced that Koschei, although a thief and a cannibal, is «eternal and invincible», and that is why he needs to obey, cede lands and give him everything he wants.

It was the Ukrainians who challenged this universal evil and injustice! It was the Ukrainians who chose the path of defying evil and fighting for their own future, destiny and freedom!

And after a certain time, the world saw that the army of the Koscheians no longer had either the strength or the ability to advance. The world saw that the Koschei's army could be crushed, chased through the fields, chased and driven into the neck. Gradually, the feeling that Mordor could be defeated in the war against Ukraine grew into a firm belief in this.

We feel that our fingers have already felt the cold steel of this fateful «needle» and it will not slip away. It seems that the lord of Mordor himself understood, or rather – felt the inevitability of his defeat. He still tries to pretend that nothing special is happening, that he is «immortal» and is still able to strike terror into the hearts of living beings and force them into submission. But inside he trembles with fear of the future, in which there is no place for him, just as there is no place for Mordor, which he created from the syntheses of past pretended greatness and the falsified memories of his slaves.

Our victory is near! Perhaps the pain of our losses and the sirens of air alarms still prevent us from seeing its contours, but we already feel its approach. We feel that it is already in our hands... We beat all these «hares» in our steppes for a long time, shot down «lame ducks» and «players» in our sky, overturned and burned rusty cans of tanks. And so the fingers felt the cold steel of this «skin needle». And he shuddered... he knows that his life and death are in our hands. He can already hear the crunch of his vertebrae. Horror fills his heart, and hatred tightens his throat. He does not know when it will happen, but he cannot see himself in any future scenario. We still don't know when he will die either, but we know that no future scenario will be complete without our victory.



Sergiy Tkachenko

## DROP OF THE UNIVERSE

I am a drop in the ocean!

No, I don't want to dissolve in Him and forget myself.

And at the same time, I don't want to lose this magical connection with the Whole, which gives my life meaning and which fills me with love and joy of being every day.

I want to constantly feel this unbreakable union with the Ocean, its power and limitlessness, its beauty and incomprehensibility, and, nevertheless, to have my own will and the ability to choose my own path.

I am a drop in the ocean! I am part of our Folk. And this connection unites me with the Soul of Ukraine, with all our ancestors who lived on this Earth, loved it, cared for it, protected and defended it...

Each drop is of great value: it preserves the holographic memory of the universe of all that has been, is and will be. But only together can we create a harmonious environment for our life and development. Together, billions of drops form a torrent and raise huge waves! And only together we create our common future! all! Each of us is a drop in our boundless Ocean!



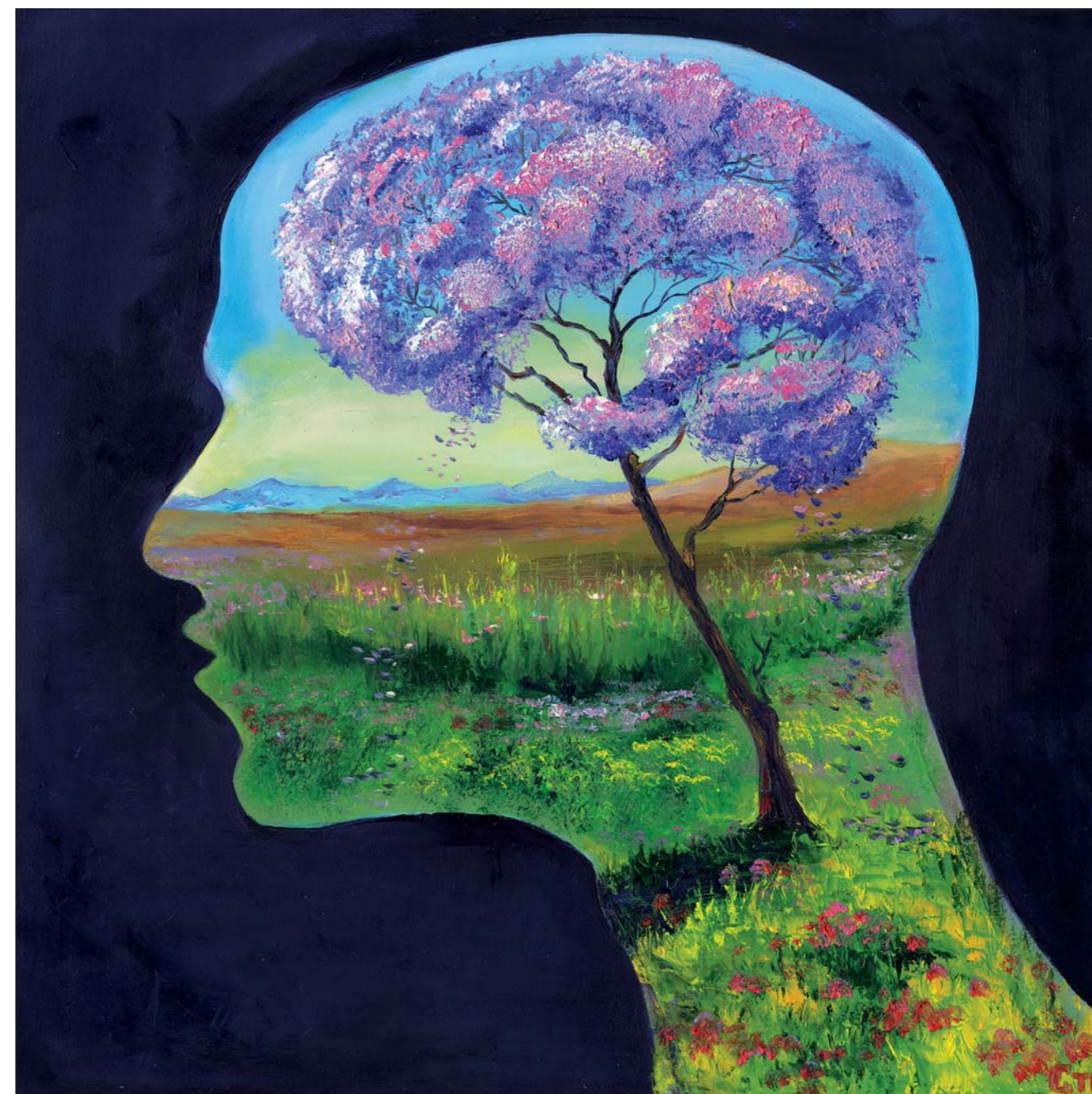
Sergiy Tkachenko

## FILTRATION OF SENSES

**T**he trauma of war in the human mind will not go anywhere – it will live in people for a long time, manifesting itself in various, sometimes terrible forms. However, this will give most people wisdom. Wisdom that will make the words «peace», «freedom», «dignity» and «human rights» a value that everyone will protect by word, deed, thought.

Wisdom that will be a kind of safeguard and will constantly support the memory of how an unconscious attitude to own life and the lives of loved ones can quickly turn into a catastrophe for all.

Wisdom that will not allow anyone to manipulate their own consciousness, and which can quickly distinguish between leaders (both others and their own) «pigeons» and «jackals».



Sergiy Tkachenko

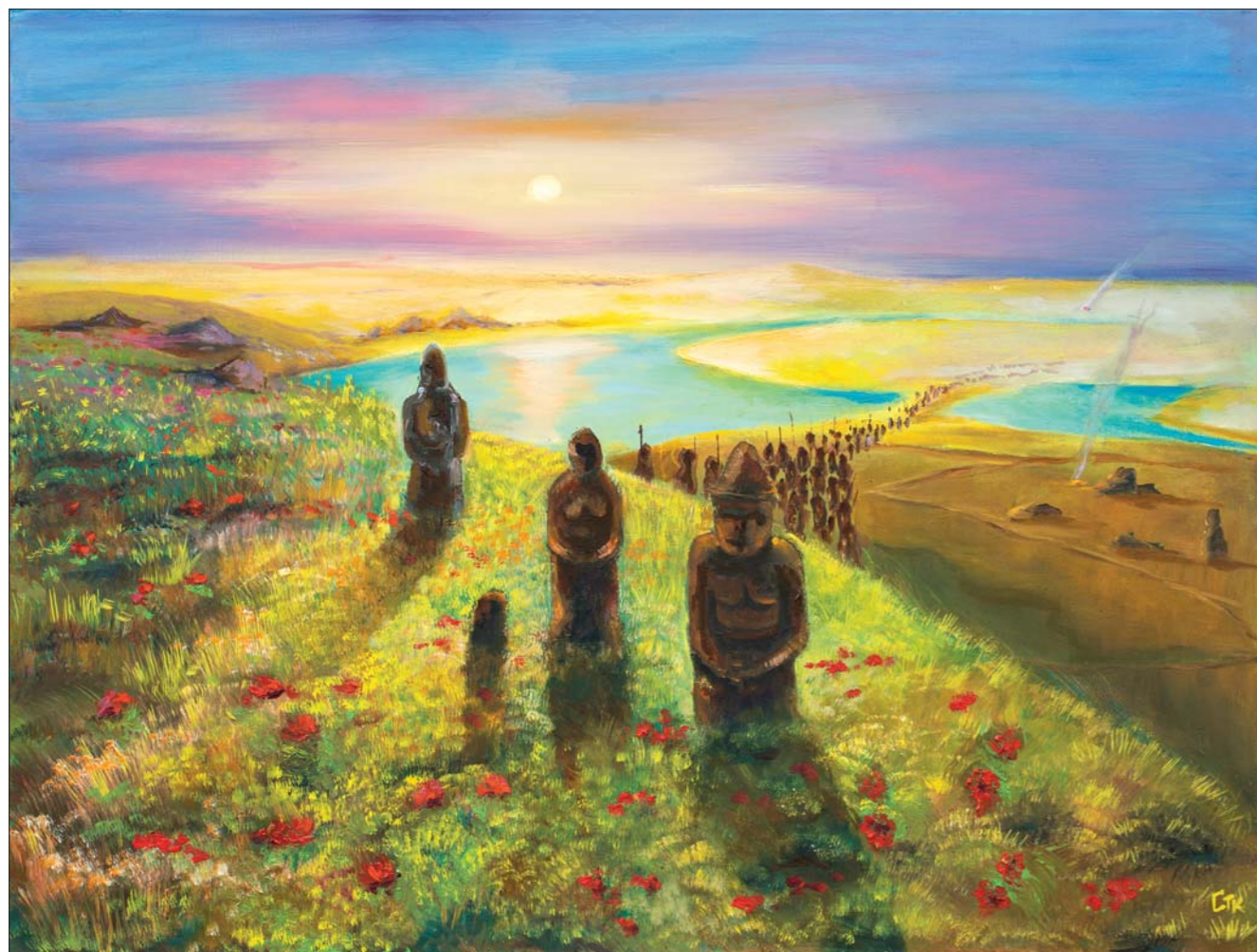
## ODE TO JOY

**I** am sure that after the end of the war and our victory over Russia, those regions that were under Russian occupation for a long time in Crimea and Donbas will quickly unite. And they will be united primarily by people.

All this will lead to the desire of people to form a common reality and a common future, to self-organize, to show initiative, creativity, to unite, to strive for changes.

Ultimately, this synergy of thoughts, aspirations, actions and results will «revive» people, the economy, the environment, and Ukraine.

I know for sure that every Ukrainian in Donetsk, Kyiv, Crimea, Lviv and Luhansk will live with a sense of self-worth, feeling that every day brings pleasant expectations and a joyful presentiment of happiness».



Sergiy Tkachenko

## DONETSK STEPPE

Many of those from «Donetsk» who were forced to leave their homes after 2014 still remember that the 1st-2nd week of May is the time of flowering of «funnels» (thin-leaved peonies) in the Khomutovsky steppe (not far from Mariupol). The time when for several days the entire steppe is covered with red spots and filled with an overwhelming aroma.

Along with the desire to feel this magic of nature, which has been preserved here in its original form and has not undergone changes for thousands of years, you also gradually became imbued with the spirit of many generations of our ancestors who inhabited this land. Aryans, Cimmericians, Scythians, Sarmatians, Goths, Huns lived here for thousands of years, came and filled this space with their traditions, beliefs and legends, fought and saturated this land with their tears, sweat and blood.

This land saw many armies of invaders who came here, killed, raped, robbed, but in the end, not understanding the laws of this land, disappeared from its face.

And the spilled blood sprouted from the ground like a wild peony, which continued to whisper with its leaves to the new conquerors:

«The moment you capture someone, remember that someone captures you too (Not necessarily clearly and not necessarily the territory). If you are at war with the world, the world is at war with you (Not necessarily open). What you sow is what you reap. What is inside is also outside... And only love is the «source» from which everything originates...»

So it was, so it is... and so it will be!



Шахти, терикони...

Шахти, терикони,  
Заводські вогні...  
Місяць в травах тоне...  
І пісні, пісні...  
Доля ти піснярська,  
Доленько моя!  
Сторона шахтарська,  
Син твій, син твій я!  
Там, де обрій, в полі  
Неба мрійна гать.  
Золоті тополі  
За Дінцем шумлять.  
Про крейдяні гори  
Не забуду я,  
Де молилась зорям  
Матінка моя.  
Піснею лечу я  
Над простором нив,  
Землю я цілую,  
По якій ходив.  
Кров моя вирує  
В жилах, наче спів...  
Землю я цілую,  
Ту, що полюбив.

Володимир СОСЮРА  
1955

Sergiy Tkachenko

## CARPATHIANS AND TERRUKONS (WASTE HEAPS)

На полонині, на верхівці

На полонині, на верхівці  
Кому доводилось бувати?  
Пливуть хмарки внизу, як вівці,  
Ще по-весняному кудлаті.

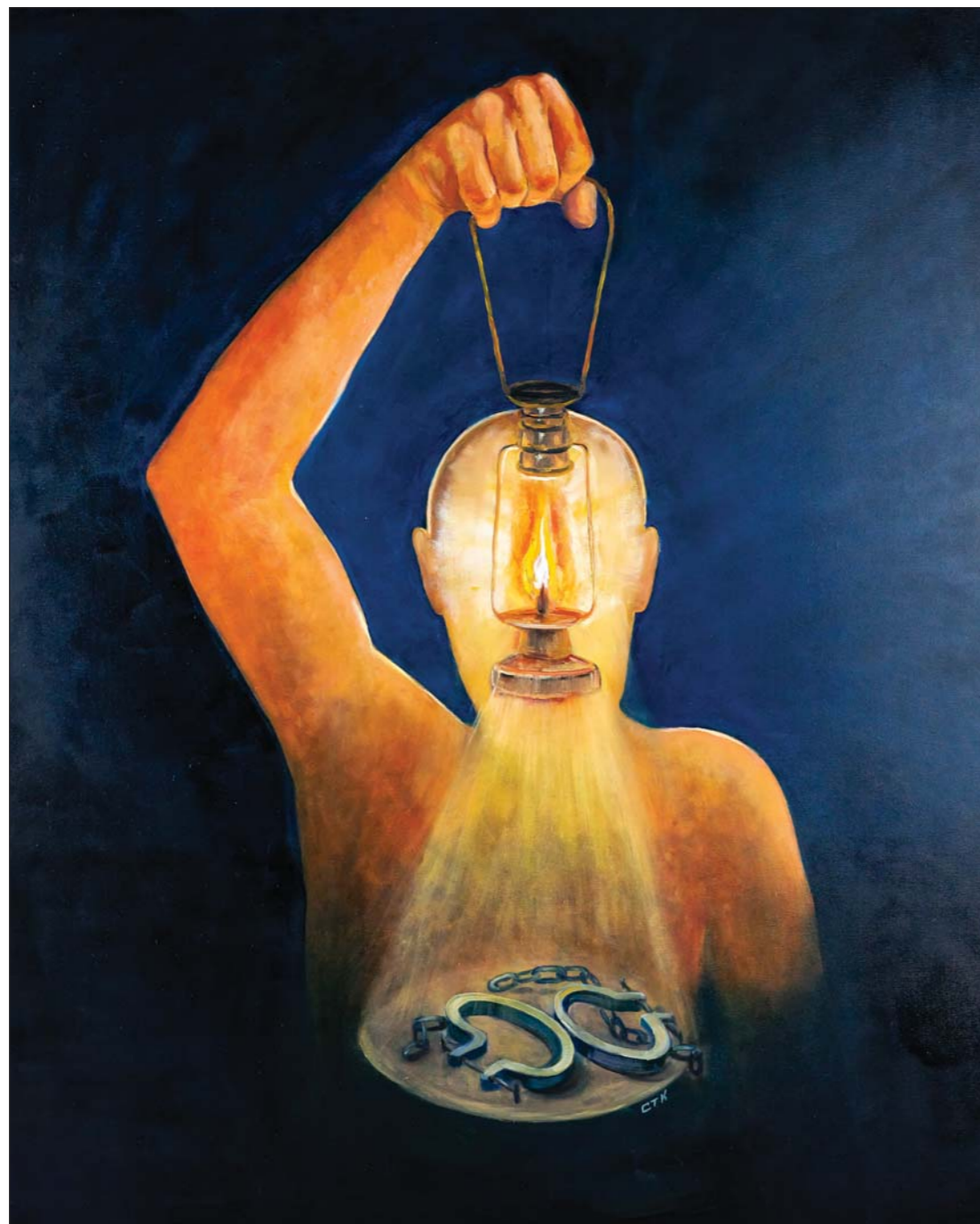
І сонце пішки йде по плаю,  
Збирає роси-намистини,  
На гори небо напинає,  
Немов гаптовану хустину.

А під ногами – трави, квіти,  
Цимбелять весело потоки.  
– Гей, гей! – озвалися трембіти  
На всі чотири боки,

Де маю друзів скрізь багато  
І всіх у гості кличу нині.  
Живу з ріднею у Карпатах,  
На кучерявій Верховині!

Володимир ЛАДИЖЕЦЬ  
1974





«**H**aving not broken the shackles during life, do you really hope for liberation after death?...» (Kabir. Indian poet)  
Having gone through and felt all the consequences of the Russian occupation, we once again became convinced that our fears and the fears of the Russians differ significantly in their nature and ability to motivate action.

Our motivating factor is not the fear of death, but the fear of life, which will be maimed and torn apart if the Russians «come» to our homes.

This is the fear that we will not plan our future and the future of our state in time and space.

It is the fear that our children will not grow up at home, love and study the history of other countries, remembering their own with pain in their hearts.

We are ready to give our lives so that we, our children, grandchildren and future generations do not live in pain and suffering with an incurable victim complex and longing for a lost home.

We know 100 percent what awaits us if we lose this war. Hundreds of years of persecution, famine and genocide reproduce vivid pictures of the past in our genetic memory and leave no doubt.

We (Ukrainians) do not want such a life that we cannot create ourselves. They (Russians) do not want a death that demonstrates the meaninglessness of their lives. And this is our dignity!



Sergiy Tkachenko

**FREEDOM**

**L**ife constantly proves to us that what we risk losing often becomes our valuable priority. And once again Freedom became our first priority. It was like that in 2004, 2014, and it is like that now.

It is one thing to inherit freedom as an integral attribute of everyday life. And it is completely different – when this freedom was suffered, cried, waited in the occupation, when in times of despair it seemed to you that everything was irretrievably lost, but with the last strength you continued to work and believe that the time of liberation will certainly come.

Unfortunately, it is after such upheavals that we begin to distinguish true values from the value of other things, to clearly understand cause-and-effect relationships, and to protect what we cannot imagine our future life without.

Perhaps we have not yet dreamed of what our country should be like after victory, but we are fighting for the right and freedom to independently define, shape and fill this future with meaning. This is our freedom!

Serhiy Vilganovskiy

## UNIVERSAL HARVEST



Originally the god of fertility, vegetation and wild nature, who can bring destruction or avert it, Mars is in eternal confrontation with himself and suffers from the ruthless dualism of existence, where death and life, hatred and love, fear and bravery walk side by side. Boundless courage to establish order, punish evil and restore justice. For the sake of a new peace and a new life, new steps, new people, children who will live, build and fight here, because weapons never run dry from the blood of external enemies and internal enemies, who are just waiting for the right moment to betray, sell and run away. Because struggle, like freedom, is eternal, and victory is every day.



Sergiy Tkachenko

EVERYTHING WILL BE  
UKRAINE

February 23, 2022

Every creative idea, thought and image that wants to come and manifest itself in this world chooses a certain time, conditions and place for it. So this picture was supposed to be «born» (or rather, completed) today. How did I find out about it? I just felt an uncontrollable desire after work to come to the studio to my friend and teacher Serhiy Vilganovskiy and finally close this «gestalt»! It so happened that work, sports, meditation and creativity (which is essentially meditation) help me keep calm in these stormy times. And let this picture bring peace of mind and critical thinking back to all of us, confidence in ourselves and our defenders, and hope that everything that happens to us will definitely turn out to be good for us and Ukraine. Let this cloud pour warm rain on our native land. May this heavenly moisture bring life and grace to our land. And may she also wash all our enemies into the abyss on her way. And if someone remains – then we still have lightning!

EVERYTHING WILL BE UKRAINE!

Sergiy Tkachenko  
**ON THE EDGE OF THE FUTURE**



**W**e will not be able to escape from the need to answer the question: for which life and for which future are we waging this struggle? What is so valuable in our future that gives us the strength now to resist this «universal evil»?

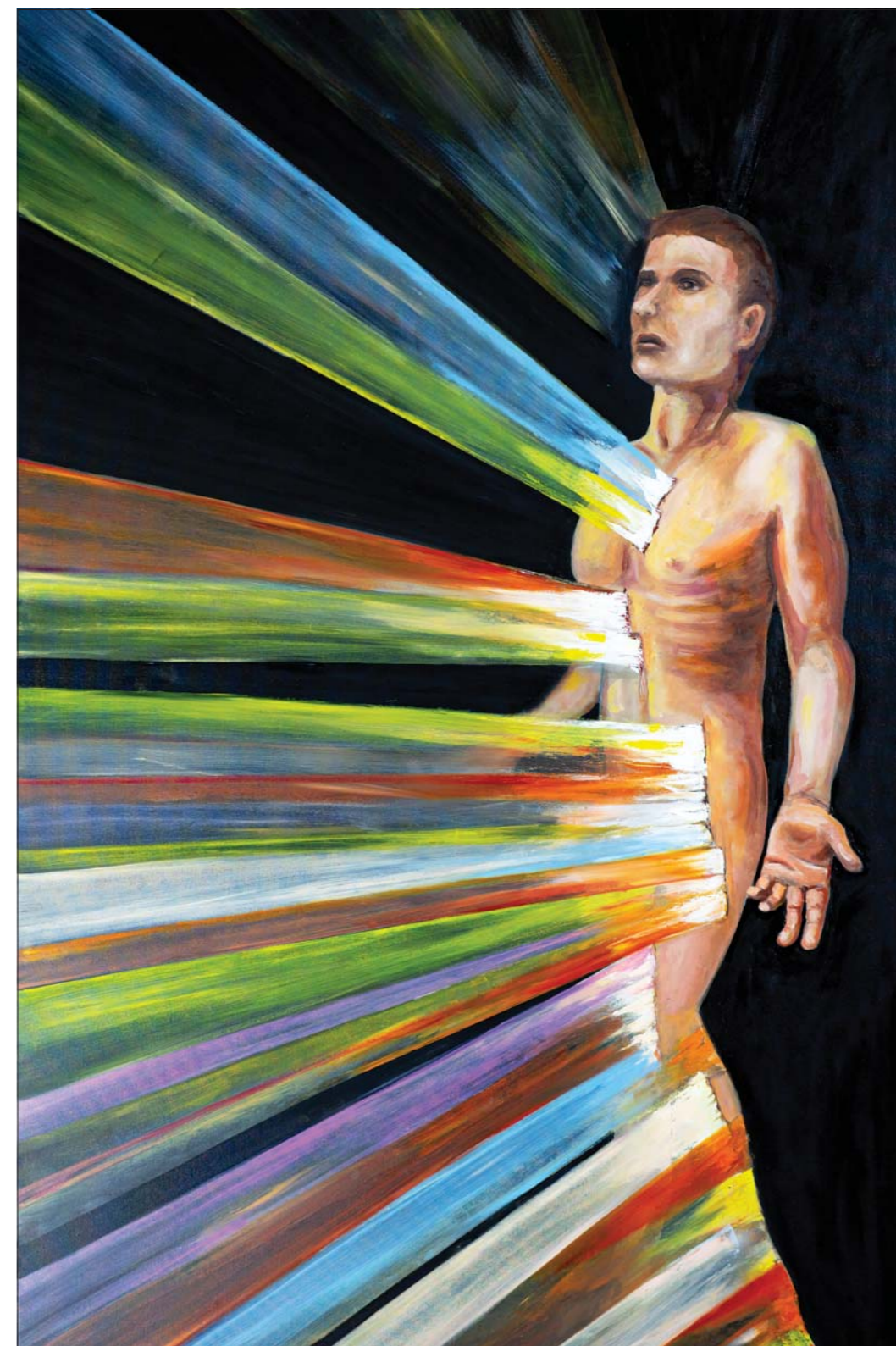
What will we give a common answer to the questions «Who are we?», «Where are we and what kind of world do we live in?», «What is our relationship with this world and why all this?».

During the war, we are all united by the goal of defeating the Russians. This is the goal, and there is a common understanding that if we do not achieve it, it will destroy our future and lead to a crippled future of our state. But we need a common sense of existence in peacetime as well. The same goal should unite people even after victory.

We are now overcoming all obstacles from the fear of losing homes, the state, the freedom to shape the future... And this is a very strong motivator, but it is motivation «from» the fear of pos-sible losses. And in order to build the future, we need motivation «to».

We need to learn to create a common future and go towards it. To go to our best creation – to the synergy of all creations and creators who will dream up the future of Ukraine and its own future in it.

Sergiy Tkachenko  
**DESTINATION**



**O**ur Purpose is not just about us. The ultimate goal and great meaning of Ukraine's existence lies in what we bring as a gift to humanity. And here our awareness of Freedom can become a break-through force in the World. The world has forgotten the value of freedom as a basis and necessary condition for the realization of other values: human rights, democracy, creativity.

Through a true understanding of freedom, we will be able to help the world find the meaning of such concepts as «peace», «solidarity», «partnership». We have already been able to demonstrate on our own experience how a nation that seeks freedom can defeat a much more technologically stronger enemy. And the miracles and magic are just beginning!

We are fighters for our own future – this is a fact recognized by many of our international friends and partners. But we still need to become integral creators of our own future, having found the great meaning of our common existence – our Destiny.





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