



ГОГОЛЬFEST

03150, Україна, Київ
вул. Велика Васильківська, 136
+38 044 529 40 62
www.gogolfest.org
gogolfest.international@gmail.com

To all EFA Members
From Ukrainian international festival of contemporary art Gogolfest

I, Anna Basova, from the position of program director and on behalf of the team of the international multidisciplinary festival of contemporary art "Gogolfest", am writing a letter of appeal to all representatives as a member of the EFA since 2019. The letter was provoked by the difficult military situation in Ukraine in response to Russian aggression.

Since 2007 we have been actively developing modern Ukrainian culture of high quality, international level both in the capital Kyiv and in many regions of Ukraine (Mariupol, Vinnytsia, Dnipro, Zaporizhia, Kherson, Ivano-Frankivsk, etc.). The festival team implemented large-scale cultural special events and festivals, as well as developed local initiatives. Thanks to the festival, centers of contemporary art were opened in the regions and local communities had the opportunity to develop their potential, make international collaborations and develop cities, and thus the whole country. Also, an important activity of the festival team was the presentation of the leading Ukrainian product in the world, as well as international theatrical, musical and artistic collaborations between Ukrainian and European representatives.

However, now, we are all in a difficult position. Personally, some of my relatives and my team had to leave their homes in Kyiv, because during the 12 days of the war we hear explosions around us every 10 minutes: fights with Russian saboteurs are taking place in our yards, bombs are coming to our houses, our streets are located. many checkpoints trying to protect the city from the aggressor. We have not been in contact with some members of the regional teams in Mariupol and Kherson for more than a week and we do not know what their fate is now. Currently, almost every Ukrainian defends the country, each on his own front: military, humanitarian, medical, diplomatic, cultural, etc.. The Ukrainian army, our president and many active Ukrainian citizens are constantly defending our country every minute and we are happy for every quiet moment and message from loved ones every new morning, that they are all right.

We are also infinitely grateful to the entire European community, which expresses its support for Ukraine and tries in every way to counteract the terrible Russian aggression, which is spreading. We feel your support: it is very inspiring and empowering to uphold our rights, values and faith in a bright, peaceful, democratic and independent future.

Now, most of the Gogolfest team is in different cities in central and western Ukraine, where there are relatively few explosions and a little safer (although the airport was bombed near me yesterday). From here we try to help the defenders of Ukraine and territorial defense. We try to be brave!

In the second week of the war comes the realization that, unfortunately, this war will not end quickly. With this in mind, we understand that we need to start rebuilding and rebuilding, supporting Ukraine not only in the defense sector but also in the socio-cultural field in order to maintain a strong mood both inside and outside the country for Ukrainian refugees and active European community. Currently, we are developing a large-scale cultural project to implement it in one of the European countries, timed to support Ukraine in the global context and the spirit of Ukrainians themselves. The project will present as the leading Ukrainian cultural products made in the last year in various artistic fields. As well as what was realized by Ukrainian artists during the war as a result of collaborations with European representatives of both independent artists and refugees and / or interregional Ukrainian formations that remained in Ukraine. The project aims to actualize the freedoms and values of the Ukrainian people in order to build a physical cultural bridge and a partnership of support between Ukraine and Europe.

If any of the EFA members are ready to join this initiative, we will be happy to discuss it in more detail - just write me a reply.

We believe in a bright and peaceful future! Slava to Ukraine!