

ARTIST CV

Olga Karpenko (Olly)

Ukrainian visual artist working mainly with watercolor and monotype. Drawing, walking, and direct observation are central to her working process. Her work is based on attentive observation, recognition, and the changing relationships between human-made and living environments.

Education

1983–1988 — Taras Shevchenko Kyiv State University, Kyiv,
Ukraine (Mathematics)
2006–2017 — Art Workshop by Natalka Borisenko, Kyiv
2018–2021 — Watercolour Studio of the National Union of Artists
of Ukraine, Kyiv

Residencies

2026 — Artist at Risk (AR) Safe Haven Helsinki Residency, Finland

Selected Projects / Series

Helsinki–Kyiv, 2026 — watercolor and monotype cycle created during the Artist at Risk Safe Haven Helsinki Residency; shown at Myymälä2 Gallery, Helsinki.
#KyivCityExpress, since 2022 — long-term watercolor and drawing project based on repeated visits to stations of the Kyiv Urban Railway.
Ljutyj 2022, since 2022 — ongoing series created in response to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, reflecting changes in the urban landscape, daily life, and the experience of war.
Fish Day, 2017–2021 — watercolor and monotype series focused on fish, water, movement, and living forms.
Flower Moods / Flowers in the City, ongoing — watercolor and monotype works based on plants, flowering trees, leaves, seasonal changes, and the presence of living forms in the city.

Solo Exhibitions

2026 — *Helsinki–Kyiv*, Myymälä2 Gallery, Helsinki, Finland
2024 — *Observation and Experiment*, Kyiv House of Scientists,
Kyiv, Ukraine
2023 — *But Kyiv is Blooming Despite Everything...*,
Maria Zankovetska Museum, Kyiv, Ukraine
2022 — *Bloom, My Land!*, Kyiv House of Scientists, Kyiv, Ukraine
2020 — *Fish Day*, Amosov Institute, Kyiv, Ukraine

Selected Group Exhibitions

2026 — *Kyiv Pleinairs – 2025*, St. Sophia of Kyiv, Kyiv, Ukraine
2025 — 15th All-Ukrainian Exhibition *Graphics in Kharkiv*
2024 — X All-Ukrainian Triennial *Graphics-2024*
2024 — *Graphics-2024*, Khust, Ukraine
2023 — International Exhibition *Come Back Alive!*, Poland–France
2022 — International Exhibition *Sea of Watercolors*, Ukraine
2021 — *Arts in the Time of COVID*, IWS Pennsylvania, USA

Memberships

- Member of the National Union of Artists of Ukraine (since 2024)

Publications

- Artwork published as an illustration in *Radar Poetry*, Issue 45 (2026)

Collections

- Maria Zankovetska Museum, Kyiv, Ukraine
- Ivan Franko Literary-Memorial Museum, Nahuievychi, Ukraine
- Museum of Fine Arts of the Republic of Karelia, Petrozavodsk
- Private collections in Ukraine and Germany