

ARTIST CV

Olga Karpenko (Olly)

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Olga Karpenko (Olly) is a Ukrainian visual artist from Kyiv, currently based in Finland. She works in watercolour, monotype and collage, with a broader practice in paper-based techniques. Drawing and direct observation are central to her working process. Her works grow from sustained attention to places, living forms, weather, light, and traces of human presence.

Education

1983–1988 — Master's degree in Mathematics, Taras Shevchenko Kyiv State University, Kyiv, Ukraine

2006–2017 — Art Workshop led by Natalka Borisenko, Kyiv, Ukraine

2018–2021 — Watercolour Class at the Art Studio of the National Union of Artists of Ukraine, led by the Studio's Director, Mykola Hrokh, Kyiv, Ukraine

Residencies

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

Selected Projects / Series

Helsinki–Kyiv, 2026 — a series of paired watercolours and monotypes built as a visual dialogue between direct observations in Helsinki and remembered or unfinished subjects from Kyiv; developed during the Artists at Risk Safe Haven residency and presented at Myymälä2 Gallery, Helsinki.

#KyivCityExpress, since 2022 — long-term watercolour and drawing project based on repeated visits to stations of the Kyiv Urban Railway.

Ljutyj 2022, since 2022 — an 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 — watercolour and monotype series focused on fish, water, movement, and living forms.

Flower Moods / Flowers in the City, ongoing — watercolour 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*, Kyiv, Ukraine
2023 — International Exhibition *Come Back Alive!*, Poland–France
2022 — XI All-Ukrainian *Heorhii Yakutovych Art Exhibition-Competition*,
Kyiv, Ukraine
2021 — *Arts in the Time of COVID*, IWS Pennsylvania, USA
2020 — III All-Ukrainian and International Biennale *Sea of Watercolours*,
Odessa, Ukraine
2019 — 10th All-Ukrainian Exhibition *Graphics in Kharkiv*, Ukraine
2018 — 1st International *Mail Art Exhibition*, Budapest, Hungary

Memberships

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

Selected Publications

- Karpenko, Olga. *Statics–Dynamics in Graphics and Drawing Tests*. Kyiv: International Institute of Socionics, 2018. 93 pp. [in Russian].
- Artwork published in *Radar Poetry*, Issue 45, accompanying Robbin Farr's "Lesson of the Finches" (2026).
- *Radical Catalyst Art & Literary Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 2: *Perspectives on War & Violence* — multi-page *Ljutyj 2022* feature with four watercolours and accompanying artist texts; *Furious April* selected as the cover artwork.

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