

SERIES BYZANTINA

Studies on Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Art



VOLUME XX

Ostrava – Warsaw 2022

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Introduction

The jubilee volume of the *Series Byzantina* is devoted to Ukrainian art. Russia's attack on Ukraine on 24 February 2022 thus far has caused the greatest damage to the country, including to many of its art monuments. From the very beginning, Ukrainian art historians took actions to focus on the preservation of works of art. Museologists, conservators, and university scholars tried to save as much of the past as possible. The world has been able to see, circulating the Internet, the dramatic photos of Ukrainians working hard to achieve what is dear to them.

The world learnt about the culture of Ukraine truly for the first time; in the broadcasts we noticed how little the inhabitants of other countries knew about that part of the world. So far, what most knew has been derived from the Soviet and post-Soviet narratives. On the initiative of several international scholars, a website was created (initiated by Suzanna Ivanic and Tomasz Grusiecki), where first-class professional information about Ukrainian art appeared.¹ Throughout the year, public online lectures were held to promote monuments located in Ukraine.

By joining this initiative, we decided to publish scientific works on Ukrainian art.² Several articles have been published primarily in Ukrainian, but also in other languages, so we decided to translate as many of them as possible into English. Due to the language barrier, the Ukrainian scientific literature is nearly completely unknown in the world. Therefore, we present short articles with a rich bibliography, so that scientists in other countries can get to know the scientific achievements of our colleagues.

Throughout 2022, exhibitions, mostly of modern art, were organised in Ukraine itself. Despite the constant bombardment of Kiev, the museum staff decided to prepare a new exhibition of mosaics and other monuments from the era of Kyivan Rus at

¹ <https://research.kent.ac.uk/emcentraleu/early-modern-history-of-ukraine/>

² <http://seriesbyzantina.eu/ukrainica/>



Fig. 1. Interior of the Resurrection in Lukashivka, Chernihiv Oblast, destroyed in March 2022, photo by Vitalina Pavcheko-Zazul

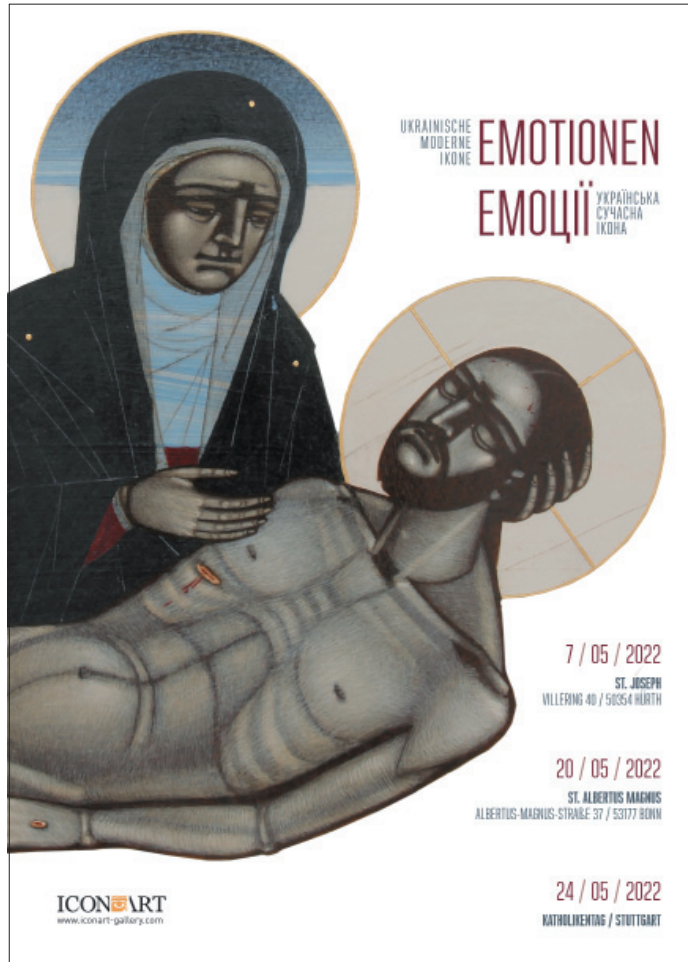


Fig. 2. Icon exhibition poster, 'Emotions' in Germany, May 2022

the National Museum of the History of Ukraine exhibition. The Museum of the Warsaw Archdiocese intends to organise an exhibition of *Sacred Icons of Kyjiv and Czernihiv* in 2023. Let us hope that this initiative will spur scholars to further scientific research.

We believe that Ukrainian monuments will survive the war and we will be able to see them in the future. But we also wish Ukrainians that the world would finally get to know more about such a rich culture of one of the largest Slavic nations in Europe.

Waldemar Deluga



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