

YAROSLAVA KRUTOVA

When tomato becomes a piece of cake

Yaroslava Krutova's multidimensional approach to her artistry reflects a deep understanding of social dynamics and human emotions. Her fusion of academic knowledge with creative expression results in thought-provoking pieces that challenge conventional norms and perceptions. By delving into the complexities of popular culture and dissecting its impact on society, she unveils the intricacies of manipulation, collective consciousness, and the power dynamics at play. Transitioning to The Hague following the invasion, Yaroslava's collaboration with local artists signifies a powerful exchange of ideas and experiences. Through her art, she seeks to capture the raw emotions and collective resilience of displaced Ukrainians, echoing their struggles and triumphs in the face of adversity. By weaving together diverse narratives and perspectives, she creates a tapestry of shared experiences that resonate with audiences on a profound level. As Yaroslava immerses herself in the new cultural landscape, her work serves as a poignant reflection of the realities of war and displacement. Through storytelling and visual representation, she sheds light on the nuances of alienation and the quest for identity in a world marked by uncertainty and upheaval. With each brushstroke and frame, she invites viewers to contemplate the universal themes of loss, endurance, and the enduring human spirit. Currently, her practice and interests are centred around the impact of the ongoing war and the feeling of grief. Yaroslava's projects are based on the feelings she and millions of people are experiencing now due to the forced rapid change of environment from the familiar to the completely strange and unknown.

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/kruttova/

www.youtube.com/c/ATCHERRYGARDEN

EDUCATION

2010 - Sociologie National Technical
2015 University Kharkiv Politechnic Institute
diploma

EXHIBITIONS

2025 Grin and bear it foundation B.a.d Rotterdam, Netherlands The project 'grin and bear it' delves into exploring the connection between smiling and sadness. The study references Carney Landis research on smiles, highlighting that not all smiles convey happiness. Video interviews brings visual expressions to the surface as well as multiple meanings of "the same" depending on the distinction of being, as well as outlining the complexity of understanding facial features. www.foundationbad.nl/grin-and-bear-it/
Duo

2024 Barcelona Indi Film Festival Barcelona, Spain Short film WHEN TOMETO BECOMES A PIECE OF CAKE
www.madriff.org/barciff/
Group

2023 Larnaca Biennale EVOHK gallery Larnaca, Cyprus Short Film and Q&A Yaroslava Krutova Ukraine, 1993 WHEN TOMATO BECOMES A PIECE OF CAKE Video
biennalelarnaca.com/event/homeawayfromhome-

[screenings/](#)
Group

- 2023 The Grand Palace of Everyone NEST The Haage, Netherlands I don't think I'll stay here long nestruimte.nl/exhibition/the-grand-palace-of-everyone/
Duo
- 2022 I don't think I'll stay here long Saxylant, Unseen Amsterdam, Netherlands I don't think I'll stay here long unseenamsterdam.com/city-program
Duo
- 2022 Down There in the Cherry Garden Perdu Amsterdam, Netherlands Ewa's performance was presented in Ukrainian together with her translator Sergej, accompanied by her paintings with a corresponding sound composition. perdu.nl/nl/r/on-what-binds-us-together/
Duo

PROJECTS

- 2024 Grin and bear it foundation b.a.d Rotterdam, Netherlands www.foundationbad.nl/grin-and-bear-it/ Project delves into exploring the connection between smiling and sadness by meeting with individuals to uncover hidden emotions. The study references Carney Landis research on smiles, highlighting that not all smiles convey happiness. Participants will experiment with expressing various emotions through smiles, guessing others' emotions, and creating smile-related content.
- 2023 Pieds de Souper The Hague, Netherlands Experiment was based on the combination of antipodes and tried to understand what has a greater impact on our brain and our perception. Images that are associated with calmness, such as a sunshine, homegrown flowers, warm tea, a cozy bath, and, along with all this, sounds that give us goosebumps, such as the scraping of a fork on a plate, teeth grinding, glass creaking. In the end, the study showed that the impact of

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

- 2025 Rotterdam, Netherlands Conducting research on the contradictory nature of a smile www.foundationbad.nl
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conflicting visual and auditory stimuli can vary greatly from person to person. It highlighted the complex relationship between what we see and what we hear, and how our brains interpret this information. Understanding these nuances can shed light on how we process sensory input and how it affects our emotional and cognitive responses. It serves as a reminder that perception is a multifaceted phenomenon that is influenced by a myriad of factors.

2023 When tomato becomes a peace of cake
The Hague, Netherlands
youtu.be/T6WzrDIOEiY As millions of other Ukrainians, the artist experienced stress of changing the environment and living in uncertainty with strangers. Her work is full of complex stories about loneliness and equity, rights, and cultural clichés. There is a subtle mix of intonations: from humour to sorrow, and the hope of finding a place to call home. The work consists of two parts: the first is documenting the artist's everyday life, and the second represents the artist's internal world that exists in parallel with daily routine. Krutova performs as the main character, showing her story of being hosted by a Dutch family. She picks up on physical changes, such as not eating sugar because her hosts would not eat it, cooking different food, and wearing different clothes — in short, completely transforming her habits and self-representation, unavoidably entering an internal conflict. Sound is a key element in the piece, portraying the rapid changing of feelings. It also includes motives from Ukrainian traditional songs referring to the baggage the artist brings to her new context. The project addresses the questions: Is "home" a place or an emotional state? Can you find new home within a new society without being rooted in it? And will you lose yourself while searching for your new identity?

2022 I don't think I'll stay here long
Nolimitartcastle Amsterdam,
Netherlands youtu.be/n05cpttBf60 It is a complex narrative about loneliness and togetherness, kindness and cultural

cliches, humor and sorrow, but also about support and a hope to have home again. This project was commissioned by Outsiderland, Amsterdam and supported by FOTODOK, Utrecht and is a collaboration between artists Yaroslava Krutova and Jana Romanova.

- 2022 Down There in the Cherry Garden Perdu Amsterdam, Netherlands youtu.be/losmZreR4ik The title of the work is the first line of a Ukrainian song that has been passed through generations. It appears in a series of paintings, writings, and sound recordings of a diary that Yaroslava was writing since the beginning of the war. In this work, the diary is a method of the translation of consciousness, transition to the Ukrainian language as much as it aims for poetical documentation of the events of the more than 100 days of an ongoing war through the iconographies of protest and intimate moments. The different forms of expression are an attempt to express the movement of translation and share feelings while addressing the untranslatability of different aspects of a language.
- 2022 Pieds de Souper Kyiv, Ukraine This is a series of experimental tasks in which Yaroslava flirts with the standard perception of pleasant and repulsive. Our brain's reactions are not always fundamentally ours and can be partially imposed by society. Associations are built during life experiences and can also be created during learning. In the first experiment, the game was played with pictures and perception. Yaroslava was provocative and made a series of videos of herself eating food with her feet. The goal was to talk to the audience about disgust and eroticism and the line between them. The reaction was instantaneous - many people found the performance disgusting, but also many fetishists started commenting. Interestingly, this led to social media algorithms banning these videos for inappropriate content, even though they did not contain any nudity.
- 2021 Dyvne Interview Kyiv, Ukraine

youtu.be/8gAcBo1B43c The social experiments conducted through disguised interviews provided a fascinating insight into how public figures react to unexpected situations. As drones flew into the studio and strangers unexpectedly entered to smoke, the participants found themselves in a whirlwind of unusual events. Jugglers and dancers added to the chaos, while delivery people enjoyed snacks and drinks while listening in. Firecrackers and balloons added to the surprise, and even birthday celebrations and impromptu songs were part of the mix. The unexpected departure of the film crew and a sudden change in the host mid-interview further heightened the unpredictability. The experiment's outcomes revealed a spectrum of reactions, with most being positive. It was intriguing to note that individuals used to structured routines were particularly affected by disruptions, with some even leaving in frustration. Those new to public exposure, without prior criticism, displayed heightened responses. Surprisingly, actors among the participants embraced the changes, adapting to and actively participating in the evolving scenarios. Overall, the experiments shed light on how different personalities cope with unexpected challenges, offering valuable insights into human behaviour under pressure.

2020

Ukrainian Fashion Week FW 2020-2021 Digest with DT and Yaroslava Krutova Kyiv, Ukraine
youtu.be/YPbWW4ka82Y The Ukrainian Fashion Week as how fashion is focused on the idea of a «sustainable fashion». The word «sustainable» became such a hype in the industry: a lot of people use it to attract attention, but do they know what does it mean? We decided to figure out how much do people who take part in The Fashion Week and attend it know about sustainability. During the whole week we made interviews with founders, speakers, main organisers, famous designers, volunteers and visitors of the shows. The results of this experiment can be clearly divided between the insiders and organisers who mainly

considered it a lifestyle and the majority of visitors who only thought about casual usage of natural materials.

COMMISSIONS

2022 Down There in the Cherry Garden
Amsterdam, Netherlands Performance
perdu.nl/en/

2022 I don't think I'll stay here long
Nolimitartcastle Amsterdam,
Netherlands This project was
commissioned by Outsiderland,
Amsterdam and supported by
FOTODOK, Utrecht.
nolimitsartcastle.nl/en/ finished

SALES/WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

2023 Down There in the Cherry Garden Private
Collection Heiloo Streams of life

PUBLICATIONS

2023 When Tomato Becomes a Piece of Cake
Poster IVA Groep BV When Tomato
Becomes a Piece of Cake Rotterdam,
Netherlands

2022 Weaving with Words. Fragments of
Fragile Conversations Book Growing
Pains Weaving with Words. Fragments
of Fragile Conversations Utrecht,
Netherlands growingpains.nl/Makers

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2022 Support Fund for Ukrainian artists
Nederlands Letterenfonds The Hague,
Netherlands THE SUPPORT FUND IS
ADMINISTERED BY THE DUTCH
FOUNDATION FOR LITERATURE, IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE OTHER
DUTCH NATIONAL CULTURAL
FOUNDATIONS (THE CREATIVE
INDUSTRIES FUND NL, THE MONDRIAAN
FUND, THE NETHERLANDS FILM FUND,
THE PERFORMING ART FUND NL AND THE
CULTURAL PARTICIPATION FUND).



Grin and bear it, 2025
Short film



Grin and bear it, 2025



Grin and bear it, 2025
Acril, Watercolour, Soft pastel, Ink, Marker, 29,7cm * 42cm



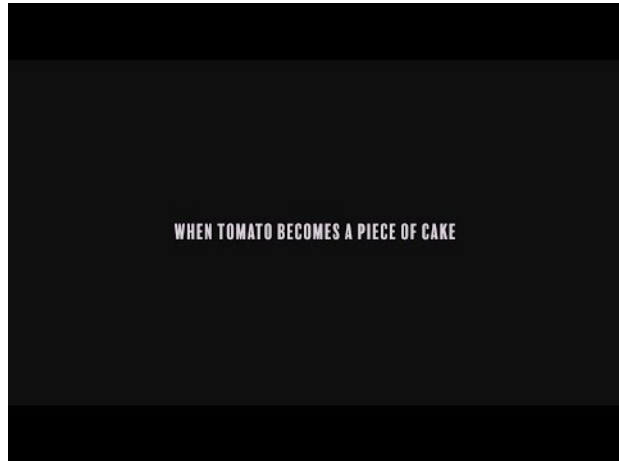
Grin and bear it, 2025
Short film



Grin and bear it, 2025
Mixed media



When tomato becomes a piece of cake, 2024
Short film



Trailer When tomato becomes a piece of cake, 2023
1:09



I Don't Think I'll Stay Here Long 2023, 2023
Three-channel installation



When tomato becomes a piece of cake, 2023



I Don't Think I'll Stay Here Long 2023, 2023
Three-channel installation

