

Some information on this page is only available in Dutch

## STEFANIYA BODNIA

Stefaniya Bodnia is a Ukrainian designer based in The Hague. For the past year's she has developed an independent practice on the cross-section of art, (geo-)politics, research and design. She employs the skills in graphics and conceptual thinking to produce publications, installations, and visual communication. Her exploration focuses on themes of geopolitical dynamics between the West and East, and the intersection of materiality with geology, technology and power structures. Amongst her commissioners and collaborators are Kyiv Biennial, Pochen Biennial and Between Bridges gallery and foundation initiated by Wolfgang Tillmans. She has worked for Spassky Fischer in Paris and Metahaven in Amsterdam.

### COLLABORATION

Alexandra Hunts, Céline Hurka, Aliona Ciobanu

### SOCIAL MEDIA

[www.instagram.com/stefabodnia/](https://www.instagram.com/stefabodnia/)

### MEMBER OF ARTISTS' INITIATIVE/COLLECTIVE/INCUBATOR

Uzvar Collective

## EDUCATION

- 2020 - Graphic Design Den Haag, Koninklijke
- 2024 Academie van Beeldende Kunsten diploma
- 2018 - Graphic Design National Academy of Visual
- 2020 Arts and Architecture, Kyiv, Ukraine

## EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Ex Oriente Ignis Pochen Biennale Chemnitz, Germany The project "Light is not Dark Enough" is part of "Ex Oriente Ignis" (translated from Latin: "The Fire Comes From the East") exhibition curated by Serge Klymko at the Pochen Biennale 2024. In the shadow of the Russian aggression war against Ukraine and at a moment of "epochal change," an artistic center for ruptures, fragility, relics worth protecting and possible future scenarios emerges in the Eastern German experiential space. The

## PROJECTS

- 2024 The Portrait, in collaboration with Alexandra Hunts Amsterdam, Netherlands Project explores the multifaceted history and evolving significance of neon gas. Highlighting neon's journey from its natural abundance in the universe to its pivotal role in scientific advancements and geopolitical shifts, the work juxtaposes its past and present uses. Initially invisible, neon gas glows red when electrified, a phenomenon that found commercial appeal in advertising signs in the West. Central to the piece are ten illuminated electrons, representing

exhibitions will take place from 26 September 2024 in over 2000 m<sup>2</sup> in several halls on the Wirkbau site. The media art exhibition, curated by Serge Klymko (Kyiv), featuring 20 international positions, and the participatory youth exhibition, curated by Amt für Wunschentwicklung (Halle/Saale), make Chemnitz a hub for existential artistic and societal debates. The comprehensive accompanying and educational programme focuses on current discourses of Central and Eastern European present and future. It engages local communities and partners to promote accessibility to the thematic complexity. [www.pochen.eu/Group](http://www.pochen.eu/Group)

2024 WIP at Paradise Pre-grad show of Graphic Design students of KABK The Hague, Netherlands Presentation of research for the publication "Coal Mine, Land Mine, and Body of Mine", including a series of drawings, text, poems, publication and projection. [Group](#)

2024 Vechirka Vechirka at Snack Amsterdam, fundraising event Amsterdam, Netherlands Russian aggression puts in danger the lives of Ukrainian people, animals, land and cultural heritage. With open hearts and raised fists our firm goal is to help those affected by the war — those who stayed and those who found refuge in other countries. Our vision is independent and thriving democracy and freedom in Ukraine. Our practice — direct support responding to specific needs. We are a group of Ukrainians and internationals volunteering and collecting money to provide humanitarian aid, sponsor water deliveries to occupied zones of Ukraine, support animal shelters, buy basic supplies e.g. helmets or tactical clothing for our friends and relatives who selflessly defend Ukraine on the frontline. Vechirka (in Ukrainian: an evening party) is a fundraising event during which you can enjoy and buy art made by our friends, sway to the music, and appreciate snacks — all proceeds will be distributed for help for those

neon's atomic structure, set against a backdrop steel structure of a found window grille from the turbulent 90's in Ukraine and serves as a metaphor for the era's industrial and political upheaval. The Soviet Union's Cold War investments in neon gas for space-bound laser weapons left a legacy that extends into today's high-tech industries and shaped Ukrainian landscape. The 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, which disrupted nearly half of the global neon supply by shutting down major production plants in Odessa and Mariupol, underscores the fragility of these interconnected systems. The work tries to encapsulates the shift of neon's purpose— from a tool of military ambition to a cornerstone of semiconductor manufacturing—while inviting viewers to ponder the ethical complexities of technological progress and its enduring impact on our world. Through these contrasts, the project prompts reflection on the lasting impacts of Soviet industrialization, ecological damage, and the complex ethical considerations entwined with scientific progress and political change.

2024 The Light is not Dark Enough The Hague, Netherlands The multi-faceted research project provides insight into the poignant landscape of war-affected south-eastern Ukraine and sets out to theorise the complicity of resources as participants that influence and register instances of (geo-political) conflict. Exploring the role of material as the conductor of all matter, Stefaniia's research designates specific resources extracted in Donbas, such as neon gas, ores, coal, as protagonists in each chapter by showing how their presence determines the causation of events. It explores the multifaceted history and evolving significance of materiality in the connection with power structures. It prompts reflection on the impacts of dual colonisation of the region, Soviet industrialization, scientific progress, ecological damage, and political change.

2024 Coal Mine, Land Mine, and Body of Mine The Hague, Netherlands This book explores the history of mining and industrialisation in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. It draws on a rich collection of

suffering due to war. Inside the snack machine is a collection of postcards by Stefaniia Bodnia, which reflect stories told by the artist's mother, whom escaped the Russian occupation and bombardment of Mariupol, her home town. Lenticular postcards were chosen to capture the liminality faced by people displaced by war, who fluctuate between personal and collective, trauma and hope.

[snacksamsterdam.nl/editions/8/Group](https://snacksamsterdam.nl/editions/8/Group)

2024 Punctuations Graduation Show 2024 at the Royal Academy of Art The Hague The Hague , Netherlands For the Graduation show 2024 at KABK Stefaniia Bodnia presents the project "Coal Mine, Land Mine, Body of Mine". "I remember the black snow covering my yard every year at night in Mariupol. A brittle crust of black patina that I always longed to break by making the first white footprints. The obscure black particles have no taste or smell, they tint the surface of the snow-covered landscape while remaining invisible. It settles into the human and non-human bodies, leaving an intangible presence expressed in its instantly unseen gradual transformation. The black snow is a metaphor for industrial emissions from metallurgical and chemical production and mining in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, where flames currently descend from the sky onto the soil. The multi faceted project provides insight into the post-industrial landscape of war-affected eastern Ukraine and illuminates the voices of the materials extracted from this region: coal, salt, gas, neon, and the human body. The story unfolds in several chapters, each dedicated to narration about a particular material. It traces the chain of extraction, starting with coal mining in the region, followed by black metallurgy, and with the production of neon as a by-product of the iron and steel industry."

[graduation.kabk.nl/2024/stefaniia-bodnia](https://graduation.kabk.nl/2024/stefaniia-bodnia)  
Group

2023 Love is in the Air Group exhibition 'Love

images and documents sourced from Belgian and Ukrainian archives, including paintings, drawings, and grassroots photography. Among the featured works are Nikolay Kasatkin's 1880s paintings of Donbas coal mining, which vividly portray the industrial transformation and the hidden, subterranean world where mining takes place, beyond the reach of human vision. Kasatkin paints the picture black, withholding the vision of the industrial workforce and political decisions. In this publication, the invisible voices of those reduced to mere material are brought to light, using my body as a narrative tool. Through a combination of poetry and charcoal drawings, the body is portrayed as more than just a resource, with the narrative unfolding as a piece of charcoal gradually exhausted across the pages.

2023 Prison Diaries The Hague, Netherlands [www.stimuleringsfonds.nl/toekenningen/prison-diaries](https://www.stimuleringsfonds.nl/toekenningen/prison-diaries) Prison Diaries, is a series of two publications and several events aimed at raising awareness about human rights violations facing asylum-seekers at Europe's borders through personal stories. It narrates the unjust imprisonment of Homayoun Sabetara in Greece, highlighting the connection between personal tragedy and global politics. For the Prison Diaries project, Stefaniia Bodnia collaborates with designer Céline Hurka, activist and illustrator Adrian Pourviseh, musician Mahtab Sabetara, journalist Julie Bourdin and curator Federica Notari.

2022 Sea Summer The Hague, Netherlands [celine-hurka.com/seasummer/](https://celine-hurka.com/seasummer/) Seasummer is a variable handwriting font with a single axis. The typeface was collaboratively crafted by Céline Hurka and Stefaniia Bodnia. The project originally drew inspiration from the handwriting of illustrator Adrian Pourviseh, found in his diaries. In 2021, Adrian spent several weeks in the Mediterranean, participating in the rescue of refugees with Sea-Watch E.V.. While at sea, he processed these traumatic experiences at Europe's deadliest borders through his writing, later transforming them into a graphic novel. The novel, titled "Das Schimmern der See," was published in 2023 by Avant Verlag and designed by Moritz Schottmüller and Calvin Kudufia.

is in the Air' Den Haag, Netherlands The group exhibition Love is in the Air organized by KABK's Design Research students fills exhibition space as Laak with sounds, moving images, and installations, all to manifest love in all its forms. Within the exhibition, the participants explored the theme 'Love & the Erotic'. Drawing from thoughts of Audre Lorde, adrienne maree brown, and bell hooks, they've asked: What if we celebrate the erotic in all aspects of our lives? What if we were to begin our activities with a love ethic? What if the erotic, pleasure, and love become the primary incentives for our design practices; for our political actions, how we interact with and care for our environment, and how we build our commune? To fill the cracks of our alienated and individualized lives, Love is in the Air welcomes you to a lush and plentiful ecosystem of love stories. This earthly paradise created with passionate and devoted labor becomes a lovescape open for observation, contribution, and interpretation. It invites you to explore the erotic as a source of power and to recognize our need for an abundance of love: deep, soft, drippin', hot, wild, practiced, collectivized, cultured, radical, and fearless love.

[Group](#)

2023 Podarunok Charity event 'Podarunok', in support of Ukraine with film screening at De School in Amsterdam Amsterdam, Netherlands Charity event organised by Collect4Ukraine and movie screening of the film 'Recipes of Displacement' made with Uzvar collective sharing the lived experiences of those who have fled the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

[Group](#)

2022 "Those Amongst Us" at Plant Fiction Studio Dutch Design Week Eindhoven , Netherlands Those Among Us features a series of shorts, performances and installations, cultivating a space for collaborative knowledge production about the lived experiences of people who have fled the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Fleeing their homes, they

The project received high acclaim by various news channels such as Arte TV and SWR and was supported generously by Stimuleringsfonds Creative Industries. Seasummer was specifically developed for this graphic novel, aiming to capture the emotional journey of its writer from tranquility to intensity. The final typeface will incorporate Ukrainian Cyrillic, developed by Stefaniis Bodnia. Additionally, it will feature 5 alternates per letter, an extensive character set, ligatures, and symbols.

share their lived experiences The escalation of the Russian war in Ukraine marked by the full-scale invasion of February 2022 caused an influx of persons seeking safety in the Netherlands. Amongst them, Ukrainians and people of different nationalities who have studied, worked, and lived their everyday lives in Ukraine. Sharing their lived experience of escaping the horrors of war created peculiar and heterogeneous 'refugee communities'. These communities, differing in language, religion, ethnicity - often enrich each other and open up a discussion around what constitutes the Ukrainian cultural identity. Circulating the orbit of these discussions are local volunteers from Eindhoven, Amsterdam and the Hague, who have come together in a showcase of solidarity and mutual support. Those Among Us is a curated experience that feature stories of individuals from these communities, of life here and of far away. These stories are told in a series of mediums and feature points of interaction where the public can experience elements of Ukrainian culture. Crucially, the stories highlight resilience and innovation that stem from ground up, revealing how volunteer goodwill have plugged systemic gaps in the refugee policy. Those Among Us is co-organised by volunteers with people who have fled the war in Ukraine The project adopts methods of interviews and online ethnography, as well as drawing on volunteer experiences, some of whom are Ukrainians themselves. It is an attempt at creating space for collaborative knowledge production about the lived experiences of people who have fled the Russian invasion. Crucially, the project follows and continues from a series of events that raise public awareness around the war in Ukraine and its reverberations felt in the Netherlands. The project also features a food performance and an amount of proceeds will go to a designated charity of choice. This edition of Those Amongst Us at DDW22 is co-organised by Uzvar Collective (NL/UKR) - a group of KABK students, and Collect4Ukraine (NL/UKR) - based

in Amsterdam, and Plant Fictions.  
[ddw.nl/en/programme/8045/those-among-us](https://ddw.nl/en/programme/8045/those-among-us)  
Group

2021 Drawing Appreciation Day Drawing Appreciation Day The Hague, Netherlands Artist initiative Hgtomi Rosa is a guest at ...ism project space for an exhibition in which drawing is central. The project stems from the interest in drawing as a practice and the appreciation for people who use drawing in their lives. Hgtomi Rosa has invited 30 artists to show one drawing. The drawings may differ in size, function, age and success. They can be sketches, explanations, maps with routes on them, instructions, childhood drawings, spontaneous or substantial visual thoughts, drawings that were made to share with other people or a perfectly finished work of art. The artists respond to each other's drawings through comments, written thoughts and interpretations. In this way the drawings are connected with each other as an expression of thought in image and word. And displayed within the physical space that ...ism offers as a space for new thoughts. Your attendance is being valued as a contribution to Drawing Appreciation Day.  
Group

2021 Unmuted: Can you see my screen? KABK Graphic Design in Het HEM: UNMUTED Amsterdam UNMUTED shows the work of the graphic designers from the Royal Academy of Art, The Hague (KABK). The Bachelor Graphic Design and the Master Non Linear Narrative departments of the KABK consist of inquisitive designers who are aware of our current times. They are familiar with both traditional and new media. These designers want to play a meaningful role in society and in the ever-expanding field of activity of the creative sector. In the HEM, they will show their groundbreaking, most current and urgent work as a reflection on today's dizzying world. Art education in 2020-2021 At the beginning of March 2020, all art academies faced

the trials and tribulations of online teaching and digital final exams. UNMUTED responds to the desire of creators to show their work to the world. The creators now step out of the digital habitat, show their work and talk about it in a radio show in Het HEM. UNMUTED offers space to all members of the international and diverse community. Organisation UNMUTED is an initiative of the department of Bachelor Graphic Design of the Koninklijke Academie voor Beeldende Kunsten (KABK) Participants: Abel van As, Agnar Freyr Stefánsson, Alexandra Superson, Alice Vink, Aliona Ciobanu, Amber de Ronde, Amber Meekel, Balázs Milánik, Camila Chebez, Camilla Kövecses, Charlotte van Alfen, Dans Jirgensons, Dawun Chung, Emir Karyo + Jan Wojda, Hilal Mutluel, Hyeonjeong, Jack Oomes, Jacky, Jannie Guo, Jenny Konrad, Julia Olijkan, Katerina Pravdova, Kelly Martijn, Lara Dautun + Basia Strzeżek + Samuel Salminen, Loïs van Spijk, Louis Braddock Clarke + Roosje Klap + Zuzanna Zgierska, Lucas M Franco, Lulu van Dijck, Luna van Schadewijk, María Rivero Gonzalez Martin Lorenz + Lupi Asensio + Julien Arts, Matas Buckus, Niam Madlani, Niels Otterman, Petra Ereos, Renata Sidorenko, Ro Antia, Rob van den Nieuwenhuizen, Robin Wielink, Rocío Amapola, Simonida Savic, Sofia Nikolaeva, Sonya Umanskaia, Stefaniia Bodnia, Trang Quynh Le, Waleed Al-Ward, Yara Fransen, Yeeun Kim [hethem.nl/en/Het-Hem/Calendar/2021/06/KABK-Graphic-Design-In-Het-HEM-UNMUTED?modal\\_parent\\_path=Het-Hem%2FCalendarGroup](https://hethem.nl/en/Het-Hem/Calendar/2021/06/KABK-Graphic-Design-In-Het-HEM-UNMUTED?modal_parent_path=Het-Hem%2FCalendarGroup)

## COMMISSIONS

2024 Poster project: A Time in Pieces Between Bridges Berlin, Germany When a historical moment falls apart – into something unforeseen, something disparate, something intricate – we witness a divergence in the flow of time.

## PUBLICATIONS

2024 Coal Mine, Land Mine, Body of Mine Book Self-published, Den Haag Stefaniia Bodnia The Hague, Netherlands This book explores the history of mining and industrialisation in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. It draws on a rich collection of

The present starts to flicker, exposing and bursting the seams of reality. The gravity of the moment takes over entirely. Time becomes a fossil, an enduring and persistent 'now'. The poster project for "A Time in Pieces" encapsulates its concept through the deliberate glitch of a riso printer, with the ink impressions of a misprint on paper scanned and composed into a visual narrative across 12 A1 posters. Framed by three arrows breaking away from their circular path, the design symbolises disruption. The use of Times font further enhances the poster's timeless quality. finished

2024 Visual narrative, art direction for Kyiv Perennial Visual Culture Research Center Berlin, Germany A cohesive graphic narrative and visual communication were developed for the Kyiv Perennial project, encompassing four exhibitions and a public program. Conceived by the Visual Culture Research Center (VCRC), the institutional organizer of the Kyiv Biennial, together with nGbK, Between Bridges, and Prater Galerie in Berlin in 2024, Kyiv Perennial follows-up to the pan-European edition of the 2023 Kyiv Biennial with dispersed exhibitions and public programs in a number of Ukrainian and EU cities. Kyiv Perennial's strategy is based on approaches that merge artistic production, critical knowledge, and social engagement in a state of emergency, and is defined by the struggles that Ukrainian society is engaged in while fighting against Russia's fascist invasion and a neo-colonial war of extermination and extraction.  
[2023.kyivbiennial.org/eng/program/kyiv-perennial](https://2023.kyivbiennial.org/eng/program/kyiv-perennial) finished

2024 Pochen Biennale Pochen Biennale Chemnitz, Germany Visual concept for the 4th edition of Pochen Biennale developed in collaboration with Aliona Ciobanu. The visual identity reflects on the curatorial concept of the 'Fire Coming from the East'. It's burning – whether the fire warms or destroys you depends on the distance. "Today, it is

images and documents sourced from Belgian and Ukrainian archives, including paintings, drawings, and grassroots photography. Among the featured works are Nikolay Kasatkin's 1880s paintings of Donbas coal mining, which vividly portray the industrial transformation and the hidden, subterranean world where mining takes place, beyond the reach of human vision. Kasatkin paints the picture black, withholding the vision of the industrial workforce and political decisions. In this publication, the invisible voices of those reduced to mere material are brought to light, using my body as a narrative tool. Through a combination of poetry and charcoal drawings, the body is portrayed as more than just a resource, with the narrative unfolding as a piece of charcoal gradually exhausted across the pages.

2023 Revival of Behind the State Capitol or Cincinnati Pike Book Self-published, Den Haag Stefaniia Bodnia The Hague, Netherlands John Wieners's Behind the State Capitol or Cincinnati Pike is one of the lost texts of North American queer poetry. This publication is an attempt to reconnect with the original by reading, touching, responding and finding new meaning between the lines. This book is a kind of experience, a score made up of another way of reading a poem inside of the original one, erasing some words, and constructing new interpretations. The process of combining resonates with the story of the original typesetting: in the initial book version, typeset on a Compugraphic machine, the text literally vanished in the hot and humid summer weather. Behind the State Capitol was retyped in 1975 on an IBM machine, creating a series of chance linebreaks. The random and jumpy quality provided interesting textures in the text and broke the boundary between 'intentional' and 'unintentional' mistakes. 'Mistakes in grammar, punctuation and spelling: (surrendered, for surrendered) are intentional, or absolute as this is what the poem demanded. That is true to the experience of the poem' – Wieners wrote to publisher Robert Wilson. This revived publication is based on an examination of the medium of the poem, rhythm, white space, acoustic and haptic characteristics of the words on the paper reproduced in two



the fire which comes after the cold Enlightenment and after the smoke of a proletarian dream – fire makes a picture sharper and feelings more vivid, marking presence on one's skin. It leads to far more immediate consequences than its romantic predecessors. It moves quickly. The distance is the key – will it warm or burn you up? Not yet visible over the Carpathians, it comes to United Europe in a form of gaslight – the burning fossils are dead, though they tend to return as bombs and specters. In the 21st century, fire, probably more than ever, has become an imminent tool of politics – from burning tires in the Maidan to the self-immolation of Aaron Bushnell, burning the Koran in an Arnhem square and setting American flags ablaze in Tehran. Fire provides direct access to political action hidden in the technocratic nature of the modern world. A world that has dedicated so many efforts to domesticating and calculating the effects of fire. Until, one fine day, it was surrendered to flames.

As we step into the darkness of a bright screen within the Pochen Biennale, we will gaze into the reflections of the world cast by the upcoming blaze – and welcome artistic research into the current pyropolitics of Europe, the blast of multiple Easts, phosphorescent geographies, gaslit economies, the necropoesis of war and the burning out of the Yalta-Potsdam system. " [www.pb2024.eu](http://www.pb2024.eu) finished

interpretations: Wieners' and the editor's. The reading of the poems recalls a palimpsest. Each spread stages a sort of gentle interplay between Wieners' and the editor's voice; between the fading image-poem form and an emerging so-called experienced one. The paired images hidden in the French folding feel rough, layering the original and the interpretation. Light and heavier, grayish types of paper alternate in different rhythms and voices of the content. The repetitive comparison of authentic and experienced poetry directs the dynamics of linear narration of two voices throughout the book. The translation of Behind the State Capitol is an experience of reading and connecting turned into a collaboration in which the lines, words, sounds and spaces act together.

2023 Visual narrative, art direction for Kyiv Biennial '23 Kyiv Biennial Kyiv, Vienna, Ukraine As part of the visual communication for Kyiv Biennial '23, a series of posters was developed in collaboration with Aliona Ciobanu for exhibitions held in Kyiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Uzhhorod, Warsaw, Lublin, Antwerp, and Vienna. Metal wires and knots serve as symbols of transformation and resistance amidst the chaos of an ongoing war. As they morph into various shapes, merge and take on different configurations for each exhibition held in different European cities, they parallel the evolving nature of the Biennale itself.

Kyiv Biennial's visual communication weaves together disparate impressions, creating a seamless tapestry of shared artistic manifestation, strength and resilience expressed in the metal knots. [2023.kyivbiennial.org/eng](https://2023.kyivbiennial.org/eng) finished

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

2021 Holland Scholarship Holland  
Scholarship The Hague, Netherlands



Coal Mine, Land Mine, Body of Mine: Two Landscapes,  
2024  
silk printing, charcoal, base, metal sheet, 594 x 841 mm,  
594 x 841 mm



, 2024  
silk printing, charcoal, base, metal sheet, 594 x 841 mm,  
594 x 841 mm



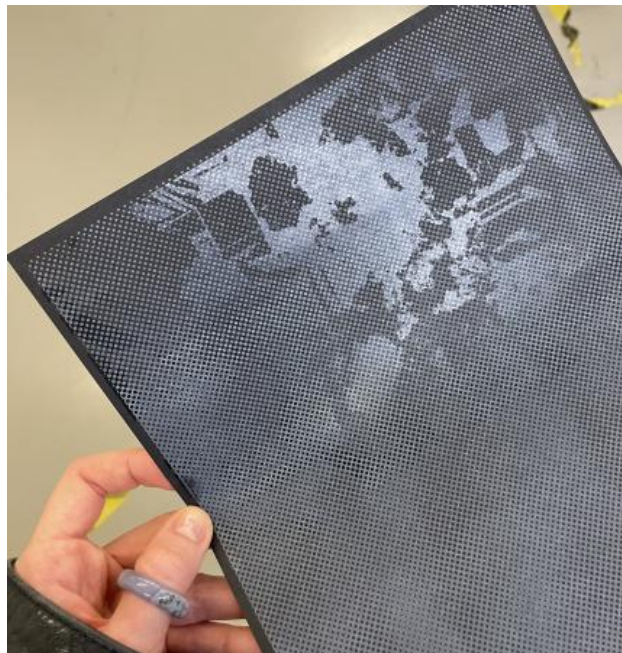
Coal Mine, Land Mine, Body of Mine: book, 2024  
silk printing, charcoal ink, digital printing, 210 x 275 x 25 mm



Coal Mine, Land Mine, Body of Mine: book, 2024  
silk printing, charcoal ink, digital printing, riso printing, 210 x 275 x 25 mm



Coal Mine, Land Mine, Body of Mine: book, 2024  
Laser print, riso print, silkscreen printing, charcoal, 210 x 275 x 25 mm



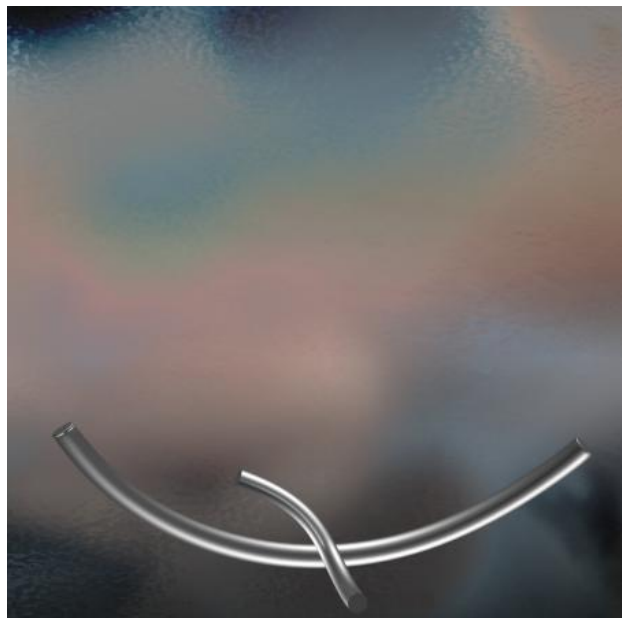
Coal Mine, Land Mine, Body of Mine: book, 2024  
Laser print, riso print, 210 x 275 x 25 mm



The Portrait, in collaboration with Alexandra Hunts, 2024  
Old Ukrainian window grill, steel, neon gas, borosilicate glass, power transformers., 125 x 110 x 15 cm



Poster project: A Time in Pieces at Between Bridges, 2024



Digital invitation for Kyiv Perennial , 2024  
Digital, 1080 x 1080



Kyiv Biennial '23, in collaboration with Aliona Ciobanu,  
2023  
Digital print, 594 x 841 mm, 594 x 841 mm, 594 x 841  
mm, 594 x 841 mm