

HOME
BEYOND
THE DAWN
夜明けの向こうの故郷

supported by European Union

Project Proposal

The core of the Home Beyond the Dawn project is a 29 minute multichannel video installation. The project's narrative unfolds through multiple locations across Ukraine, specifically touching regions uniquely resisting Russia's war of aggression. The works of contemporary Ukrainian artists act as guideposts along the way, helping viewers access Ukrainian perspectives on the concept of home — its loss, preservation, and reconstruction. They speak about shared values, visions, futures, and about how resistance, solidarity, support, and art coexist during wartime. The multichannel video format allows viewers to be transported to immersive digital recreations of Ukrainian spaces of home that are still embattled, damaged, polluted by environmental disaster, haunted by tragedy, and stained by fear.

In the video, however, the dawn is approaching. As these works convey, no amount of violence, coercion, disinformation, or revisionism can ever stop a home from being home. In Lagos, the video installation will be supplemented by two local-engagement focused elements: artist workshops and site-specific projects by five Ukrainian artists, both of which will focus on recontextualizing the transformation of the concept of home, and showcasing untold stories and underlying values. In order to successfully orient these biennial-specific elements, we plan to organize a curatorial research trip in spring 2026, which will allow us closer coordination with the biennial team and facilitation of the visiting artists' practices.

Concept & Connection

Home Beyond the Dawn touches on the themes of silenced voices, historically erased stories, cultural heritage, and lives threatened and endangered today. In 2026, the work of Ukrainian artists becomes a kind of existential anti-imperial resistance, continuing the practices of generations of natives to the region who have lived under the subjugation of various colonial powers and ideologies. For these artists, and for Ukrainian society as a whole, Russia's war of aggression represents both an archaically criminal attempt at conquest, and a contemporary expression of historical colonial and imperial attitudes. As in the past, today, in order to suppress voices, the empire appropriates or eliminates them, and the stories of entire generations are silenced. Home Beyond the Dawn highlights the artistic impact of amplifying what has been silenced, preserving what is under threat, connecting memories and future visions,

and insisting on the agency of those who have been disenfranchised by previous extractive and exploitative power configurations. The project explores today's Ukrainian artistic community as a decentralised network that carries values through a collective body and every single artist as an agent of change. Threatened and endangered Ukrainian cultural heritage may be considered as a rare artifact in danger of extinction. Home Beyond the Dawn operates at the intersection of the production and preservation of stories, weaving a meta-story from the multiple narrative threads of the entire country. For a project devoted to the transformation of the notion of home, no place is more appropriate than home, in all its expansive multiplicity and elasticity, for safeguarding the warmest memories and values of a society under threat.