



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.

Proposed Medium

1 Video installation

2 Artistic workshops

3 Artworks production

4 Panel discussions

in-person presence of artists



Technical Requirements

Immersive curved wall - a curved projection surface will be constructed from simple materials to create a smooth connection between one long wall and one short wall. A standing bench seat will be fastened the long wall opposite the projection. This installation will allow for a more immersive field of view, but will also encourage movement in and out of the space. For the video itself, we require three four-throw projectors and an audio system, all synchronised together through BrightSign media players or a media server.

four brightsign media players

four projectors

speaker->

<-speaker

<-standing bench



Contributors Statement

NYC Curatorial—Natalia Matsenko, Yuri Yefanov, and Clemens Poole—is a collective formed around a shared curatorial ambition to elevate, expose, and facilitate Ukrainian contemporary art in its many and varied forms. The group works with various media, emphasizing ideas, inspiration, narrative, and cultural relevance over fixed formats. Projects often contain interactive or social engagement elements, and seek to build connections cross-culturally. The group strives to produce inclusive works that use contemporary art practice and theory as tools for common understandings between Ukrainian creative practitioners and communities around the world.



Natalia Matsenko

is an independent curator, art critic, and lecturer. Focuses on the topics of landscape and environment transformations, human and non-human communities and networks, new media, and cultural heritage preservation. Born in Cherkasy, Ukraine. Graduated from the Kharkiv State Academy of Design and Arts, with a Master's degree in Theory and History of Art. Since 2013, as a guest curator collaborating with the international art residency BIRUCHIY, Ukraine.

Since 2018, cooperating with the Landart Symposium “Mohrytsia. The Border Space”, Ukraine. Guest curator at Kunstmuseum Bochum, Germany (2022—2023). Natalia’s practice is connected with relations between ecological and political action and art, and its short and long-term impact on the environmental systems. Recently, have been in a curatorial residencies at Cité internationale des arts, Paris (autumn 2024, winter-spring 2026) and Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna (autumn 2025).

2025

“Home Beyond the Dawn”, as part of “Ukraine at EXPO 2025”, Promprylad, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine

“Home Beyond the Dawn”, as part of “Ukraine at EXPO 2025”, Ukrainian House, Kyiv

“Home Beyond the Dawn_Osaka”, World EXPO 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan, co-curator

“Soil of Ecological Union”, kitev — Kultur im Turm, Oberhausen, Germany, co-curator

“Ambiences: Solidarity Sounds for Ukraine”, kitev — Kultur im Turm, Oberhausen, Germany, co-curator

2024

“SEE:UA connecting landscapes”, Seestadt, Vienna, in collaboration with Notgalerie and Mohrytsia, co-curator;

“Landscapes of an Ongoing Past”, discursive program curator, Zeche Zollverein, Essen, Germany, with Urbane Künste Ruhr;

“Lublin Triangle” (BIRUCHIY Borowiec 2024, Poland, co-curator);

“Home Beyond the Dawn”, MUSA (Museum of Arts of the University of Guadalajara), Guadalajara, Mexico (commissioned by EEAS within “Artistic Expressions from Contemporary Europe” in the frame of EU Guest of Honour at FIL Guadalajara)

2023

“Our Words, Our Losses, Our Searches”, Our Us, Jam Factory Art Center, Lviv, Ukraine (co-curator);

“(Un)stable Institutions”, Kunstmuseum Bochum, Germany

“Internally Displaced Landscape”,

Kyiv-Lviv-Sumy-Kharkiv, Ukraine (in collaboration with “Mohrytsia. The Border Space”, supported by Goethe Institut);

“Exhibition” (solo show by Oleksiy Sai), Voloshyn Gallery, Kyiv;

“Images of Tomorrow feat. Wolf who’s eating your hand”, LLLLLL Kunstraum, Vienna;

“Thinking About Ukraine”, Van Abbemuseum & the studio of Griet Menschaert, Eindhoven, Netherlands; in collaboration with BIRUCHIY (co-curator);

“Records of Resistance”, Unterhaus Gallery, Oberhausen / Park Kultur, Düsseldorf, Germany / Charleroi/Brussels, Belgium (co-curator, in collaboration with BIRUCHIY and kitev)

2022

“Let’s Talk About Something Else”, exhibition and public program, Kunstmuseum Bochum, Germany (co-curator);

“UNFOLDING LANDSCAPES: Landscape and Poetics in Ukrainian Art”, Royal Museum of Art and History, Brussels (with the support of EEAS and UA Embassy to EU);

“UNFOLDING LANDSCAPES: Landscape and Poetics in Ukrainian Art”, Kunst(Zeug)Haus, Rapperswil-Jona, Switzerland;

“BIRUCHIY Transcarpathia 022. Art War”, The House of Social Innovation, Warsaw;

“UNFOLDING LANDSCAPES: Landscape and Poetics in Ukrainian Art”, Art Center Silkeborg Bad, Silkeborg, Denmark (co-curator)

Yuri Yefanov

Yuri Yefanov is a Ukrainian artist and filmmaker whose work explores the digital dimensions of the otherworldly through the use of computer-generated imagery and game simulations. His practice examines the interactions between everyday life and politics by creating his own systems and mythologies. His projects have been exhibited at numerous film festivals and art venues, including the Rotterdam International Film Festival,

Oberhausen Kurzfilmtage, Cinema Dynamo at Genève Centre d'art contemporain, PinchukArtCentre, and others. The focus of Yefanov's artistic practice is on the future, landscapes, war, and ecology, and in recent years, he has been using a game engine to generate digital simulations of various decentralized societies. Within these virtual domains, he cultivates utopian visions of the distant future of humanity.

2025

PinchukArtCentrePrize (PinchukArtCentre, Kyiv, Ukraine)
Tec Art Rotterdam (katoenhuis, Rotterdam, Netherlands)
Home Beyond The Dawn (Expo Osaka 2025, Japan) co-curator
Stadtvisionen 2050 (kunsthalle exnergasse, Vienna)
Ambiences: Solidarity Sounds for Ukraine (kitev, Oberhausen, Germany)
Video Art Festival Turku (Kino Kilta, Turku, Finland)
The Grass Above Us (LU gallery, Lutsk, Ukraine)
We can talk about something else (loods6, Amsterdam)
Soil of the Ecological Union (kitev, Oberhausen, Germany) co-curator
Artspring festival (Brotfabrik kino, Berlin)
Paris International Animation Festival (the Studio des Ursulines, Paris, France)
Practicing utopia (urbanize! Festival Vienna)
Share art prize (Turin, Italy)
Molodost festival (Zhovten cinema, Kyiv, Ukraine)
Films for and about Ukraine (kaleidoscope, New York, USA)
Amiens film festival (France)
ITFS (Stuttgart, Germany)

2024

Rotterdam International Film Festival (Art Directions, Joey Ramone, Rotterdam, Netherlands)
Landscapes of an Ongoing Past (Ruhrtriennale, Zeche Zollverien, Essen, Germany)
SEE:UA connecting landscapes (Notgalerie, Seestadt, Wien, Austria) co-curator
Vilnius International Film Festival (kinopavasaris, Vilnius, Lithuania)
Festival des Cinémas Différents et Expérimentaux de Paris (France)
Small File Media Festival (Vancouver, Canada)
Media Arts Festival Arnhem (Museum Arnhem & Filmtheater Focus, Netherlands)
Unselfing (Dortmunder Kunstverein, Dortmund)

Good Night Moon (Stroboskop, Warsaw, Poland)
CinEast festival (Luxemburg)
IDKF (Stuttgart, Germany)
Athens Digital Arts Festival (48 Stadiou & Arsaki, Athens, Greece)
BISFF (Beijing, China)
Lublin Trianglge (Muzeum Nadwiślańskie w Kazimierzu Dolnym, Poland)
Club 22 #2 (LLLLLL, Vienna, Austria)
BIRUCHIY - BOROWIEC 023 (Ukraiński Dom W Warszawie, Warsaw, Poland)
Lima of Love (Nontron, France)
Algorithms of Defence (Gogolfest, Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine)
Internally displaced landscape. Mohrytsia (State Gallery, Sumy, Ukraine)

2023

International Kuzfilmtage Oberhausen (Oberhausen, Germany)
Home beyond the dawn (MUSA museum, Guadalajara, Mexico)
Thinking about Ukraine (Van Abbemuseum, Griet Menschaert residence, Eindhoven, Netherlands) co-curator
Reconstruction of dream landscapes performance (Kunstmuseum Bochum, Germany)
Let's talk about something else. Torino edition talk (Associazione barriera, Turin, Italy)
Closeness (Angewandte Performance Laboratory, Vienna)
Our years, our words, our losses, our searches, our us (Jam Factory, Lviv, Ukraine)
Lost Cause? A Series of Events Exploring Future Perspectives for Preserving Cultural Heritage (FHXB, Berlin)
Linoleum Animation Festival (Kyiv, Ukraine)
Cine Culture | Yuri Yefanov talk (Massachusetts College of art and Design, Boston, USA)

Clemens Poole

is a US American artist, musician, and curator. Since 2014, his work has focused on art and culture in contemporary Ukraine. Since 2019, he has been based in Kyiv working within the arts community on both institutional and DIY projects. In 2022 he co-founded Kyivpastrans Records, and has focused creatively on Kyiv's growing noise and experimental music scene. Recent curatorial sound projects include the sound installation for the Ukrainian Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale (2025),

Working Group—Sound (2024), 47 Hour Drone Marathon (2024), and the Drones for Drones compilation series (2023–ongoing). He is also active in contemporary Ukrainian art more broadly, and has co-curated the immersive video work Home Beyond the Dawn, Osaka (2025), the land art symposium SEE:UA—Connecting Landscapes (2024), and the exhibitions Nevertheless (2023), and Let the long. Road. Lead. To. Stairs in. The Heavens (2023). He holds a BFA from the Cooper Union and an MA/MSc from Columbia University and the London School of Economics.

2025

Molting, group exhibition, curator, Assortimenta Kimnata, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine

Salty Juice of a Ripe Fig, performance, composer, Jam Factory, Lviv, Ukraine

Home Beyond the Dawn, immersive video exhibition, co-curator; shown at World EXPO 2025, Osaka, Japan [August]; Ukrainian House, Kyiv, Ukraine [October]; Promprylad, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine [December]

Everything for Everyone, group exhibition, participating artist, Dnipro Center for Contemporary Culture, Dnipro, Ukraine

Dakh (Дax): Vernacular Hardcore—Ukrainian Pavilion at the 19th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, exhibition, sound curator, La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy

2024

Working Group — Sound, residency, curator, Dnipro Center for Contemporary Culture, Dnipro, Ukraine
seismic data: Kyiv, Ukraine February 24, 2022, performance / digital live album, artist; MuseumsQuartier Wien, Vienna, Austria [August 10] and Kunstmuseum Bochum, Bochum, German [October 30]

SEE:UA - Connecting Landscapes, co-curator & participating artist, exhibition / festival, Seestadt, Vienna, Austria

Decoy Seed Bank, installation, artist, Mifogenes, Vinnytsia, Ukraine

47hr Drone Marathon, International Drone Day, live stream / concert, co-curator & participating artist, Ceramic Beats, Kyiv, Ukraine

Club 22, group exhibition, participating artist, LLLLLL Artist Run Space, Vienna, Austria

2023

Sadochok by Iryna Loskot, short film score, composer, Kyiv, Ukraine

The Feeling Before Christmas in the Second Year of the Full Scale Invasion, group exhibition, participating artist, The Stein Studio, Kyiv Ukraine
Border Space: Internally Displaced Landscape, group exhibition, participating artist, Mohrytsia Land Art Symposium at Ukrainskyi Dim, Kyiv, Ukraine

Win the War Soup, performance / happening, artist, LLLLLL Artist Run Space, Vienna, Austria

Nevertheless, group exhibition, co-curator, Construction Festival, Dnipro, Ukraine

Ceremoniał, group exhibition, participating artist, Gallery Art Walk, Warsaw, Poland

Longing as Struggle, group exhibition, participating artist, Centrál-Periferica, Alcobaça, Portugal

Ceremoniał, installation, participating artist, NowyZłoty, Wrocław, Poland

Let the long. Road. Lead to. Stairs. In. The heavens, group exhibition, co-curator, PLATO Ostrava, Czech Republic

2022

Kyivpastrans Records, record label, founder, producer, artist, Kyiv, Ukraine

Upplysa, round 6, group exhibition, participating artist, Milvus Artistic Research Center, Knislinge, Sweden

During air raid sirens the real shelter is located in the Philharmonic building, group exhibition, participating artist, Ukrytttya Gallery, Uzhhorod, Ukraine

SONIAKH Digest, online magazine, co-founder, editor, co-curator, Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, Poland

Budget and Timeline

Budget outline:

1. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION
RESEARCH VISIT

includes: travel, accomodation, per diem

2. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION
OPENING

includes: travel, accomodation, per diem

3. TEAM

includes: fees for creators, design, PR, smm

4. ARTISTS

includes: fees for artistic production,
workshop leading

5. PRODUCTION

includes: video installation local adaptation,
production of on-site artworks

total: €63,390

Covered by European Union. Detailed
spreadsheet might be shared by request.

Proposed timeline:

Major presence: October 2026

Total stay: 10 days during the first opening
week of the Biennale

Approx. arrival: 14 October

Approx. departure: 24 October

Research trip before opening: to be
discussed.

Potentially spring/summer 2026.

privately adorning
the intricate paintings.

ポリナ・ライコは、自分の家の室内全体を、
何年もかけてこの精緻な絵画で装飾しました。



First shown at EXPO 2025, Osaka, Japan, with the support of the European Union



Artist Yuri Yefanov is from Crimea,
landscape that is also inaccessible.

アーティスト、ユーリ・イエファノフはクリミア半島出身で、
風景と同じように、今は手の届かない場所です。

