

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ARTS OF UKRAINE
INSTITUTE FOR CULTURAL RESEARCH
MODERN ART RESEARCH INSTITUTE

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

We are pleased to invite you

to participate in

the International Scientific and Practical Conference

“Artistic and cultural practices as instruments for the humanitarian understanding of war”

which will take place on **18 June 2026**

in a hybrid format.

The event will be streamed via Zoom on **18 June 2026 from 11:00 a.m.** (*The access link will be published after 15 June on the websites of the Institute for Cultural Research of the National Academy of Arts of Ukraine and the Modern Art Research Institute of the National Academy of Arts of Ukraine*).

Among the conference participants will be members of the departments of the National Academy of Arts of Ukraine, researchers from the Institute for Cultural Research and the Modern Art Research Institute, representatives of other research institutions and non-governmental organizations, as well as university faculty members and doctoral students from across Ukraine.

Purpose and concept of the conference

Contemporary war, emerging not only as a geopolitical or military phenomenon but also as a profound challenge to the humanities, requires a rethinking of the fundamental categories of culture, art, memory, subjectivity, and identity. In the context of the radical transformation of sociocultural reality, particular importance is attached to research that integrates cultural studies and art-historical approaches to the analysis of war as a complex symbolic, media, and anthropological process. The conference aims to serve as a platform for the synthesis of interdisciplinary research directions within a unified field of inquiry—**the humanitarian understanding of war through artistic and cultural practices.**

Particular attention will be given to:

- understanding war as a phenomenon of screen culture;
- exploring the image as a tool for cognition and the construction of reality;
- analyzing art as a space for engaging with trauma, memory, and identity;
- identifying anti-colonial strategies within contemporary cultural processes;

- interpreting the Ukrainian experience as part of the global humanitarian discourse.

Conference sections

Section 1. Theory of culture and methodology of war studies

- war as a cultural and symbolic phenomenon;
- methodologies for the humanities-based analysis of war;
- postcolonial and decolonial approaches;
- transformation of humanities scholarship in wartime.

Section 2. Screen culture and visual practices of war

- cinema and war: documentary and artistic dimensions;
- the screen as a medium for representing traumatic experience;
- visual strategies of testimony;
- the image as an interface of cultural reality.

Section 3. Contemporary art as a form of reflection on war

- contemporary artistic practices (performance, installation, media art);
- art and social interaction;
- artistic strategies for understanding war;
- art as a form of critical knowledge.

Section 4. Memory, archive, and cultural trauma

- politics of memory;
- art as an archive of war;
- individual and collective trauma;
- symbolic practices of remembrance.

Section 5. Anti-colonial and decolonial strategies

- deconstruction of imperial narratives;
- cultural identity in wartime;
- art as a tool of decolonization;
- the Ukrainian experience in a global context.

Section 6. Human beings, the body, and subjectivity in war

- anthropology of war;
- embodiment and vulnerability;
- transformation of subjectivity;
- representations of childhood in the culture of war.

Section 7. Digital culture and new media

- digital practices of representing war;
- social media as a space of testimony;
- VR/AR and immersive practices;
- digital memory.

Section 8. Art as a Humanitarian Practice of Engagement

- art therapy and participatory practices;
- art as a form of communication;
- cultural diplomacy;
- international artistic projects.

Special Scientific Panels

Screen culture in times of war: theoretical challenges

Methodologies for researching contemporary art in conditions of crisis

Expected academic outcomes

- development of interdisciplinary methodologies for the study of war;
- promotion of the Ukrainian humanities experience within international scholarship;
- formulation of new conceptual frameworks (image, memory, trauma, cultural interface);
- strengthening the role of academic institutions in the global scholarly discourse.

Working languages: Ukrainian, English, and Polish.

Formats of participation:

- conference presentation (10–15 minutes);

- participation in a panel discussion (up to 5 minutes).

Please submit your application, indicating the title of your presentation, by **10 June 2026** for inclusion in the conference programme.

Example of an application form

- Full name
- Institution / University
- Position
- Academic degree
- Academic (honorary) title
- Telephone number
- E-mail address
- Title of presentation
- Planned participation (please underline as appropriate):
 - o presentation (up to 15 minutes);
 - o presentation (up to 15 minutes) and publication of abstracts;
 - o publication of abstracts only.

Conference Coordinators

- **Iryna Zubavina** – Academic Secretary of the Cinema Arts Department, National Academy of Arts of Ukraine
Tel.: +38 (066) 725-96-73
- **Asmati Chibalashvili** – Deputy Director for Research, Modern Art Research Institute of the National Academy of Arts of Ukraine
Tel.: +38 (066) 777-41-22
- **Violeta Demeshchenko** – Head of the Department of Cultural Anthropology, Institute for Cultural Research of the National Academy of Arts of Ukraine
Tel.: +38 (050) 744-38-91
- **Inna Kuznietsova** – Academic Secretary, Institute for Cultural Research of the National Academy of Arts of Ukraine
Tel.: +38 (093) 129-22-94

Submission of Abstracts

Please send the electronic version of your conference paper or abstract by **15 June 2026 (inclusive)** to:

- kinoira@ukr.net (I. Zubavina)
- chibalashvili@mari.kyiv.ua (A. Chibalashvili)
- vio150569@gmail.com (V. Demeshchenko)
- ychenarada.iknamu@gmail.com (I. Kuznietsova)

The conference title must be included in the file name.

Abstract formatting requirements:

Length: up to 5 pages; Font: Times New Roman, 14 pt; Line spacing: 1.5;

References: where applicable, references should be formatted according to APA style (<https://www.sciencehunter.net/Services/Bibliography>).

Structure: author's full name, academic degree, affiliation (place of work), position, ORCID, Title, Main text of the paper (including relevance, objectives, and conclusions), References (up to 5 entries). If the submitted text is entirely original and contains no citations, a reference list is optional.

Following the conference, an edited volume of conference proceedings will be published, and selected papers will be recommended for publication in peer-reviewed academic journals.