

SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE

SOLIDARITY TICKET AND ARTISTIC INTERVENTION AT BUCERIUS KUNST FORUM

The ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius and its offshoots, the Bucerius Kunst Forum and Bucerius Law School, are appalled and shocked by the war in Ukraine. Together, the ZEIT-Stiftung, Bucerius Kunst Forum and Bucerius Law School are organising various events and actions to express their joint solidarity with Ukraine.

The Bucerius Kunst Forum for its part is offering a solidarity ticket as an alternative to the regular admission ticket for the current exhibition *Minimal Art. Bodies in Space*. An artistic intervention by the Ukrainian-Russian artist Aljoscha will also be presented in the building's atrium. Donations from both actions will benefit the Ukraine edition of the European Cultural Foundation's Culture of Solidarity Fund.

Solidarity Ticket at the Bucerius Kunst Forum

Starting 10 March 2022, the Bucerius Kunst Forum will offer a solidarity ticket for the current exhibition *Minimal Art: Bodies in Space* as an alternative to regular admission. The solidarity ticket costs twice the regular admission fee (18 euros/ reduced admission 12 euros) and the Bucerius Kunst Forum's founder, the ZEIT-Stiftung, will match the resulting donation of 9 euros (6 euros) so that 18 euros (12 euros) will be donated for each solidarity ticket. The ticket is available at the cash desk and in the Bucerius Kunst Forum online shop.

Artistic intervention in the Bucerius Kunst Forum atrium

The artistic intervention *The Evolutionary Optimism* by the Ukrainian-Russian artist Aljoscha will premiere in the atrium of the building.

The artwork can be viewed free of charge during opening hours. Visitors are kindly requested to make a voluntary donation on site in a donation box, via PayPal or directly to the museum's account: Bucerius Kunst Forum gemeinnützige GmbH, DE29 2003 0000 0030 2744 64, referencing "Donation Ukraine".

Aljoscha was born in 1974 as Aleksey Alekseevich Potupin in Glukhov, Ukraine, to a Russian father and a Ukrainian mother. He has been living in Germany for almost thirty years.

Shortly before Russia's attack on Ukraine, he protested against violence with an artistic installation in Kiev. He presented himself naked, holding one of his filigree sculptures, in front of the monument *Mother Homeland* - a statue of a woman with sword and shield that is meant to commemorate Russia's role in the Second World War and in front of which Russian tanks were already stationed at the time of Aljoscha's performance. In reaction, he spread the statement: "Bioism condemns any violence against humans, animals and plants. The suffering and war must be stopped!"

Aljoscha had already carried out another art action in Kiev in 2014, on Maidan (Independence) Square.

He draws inspiration for his delicate objects made of acrylic paint from the world of the microcosm, the natural sciences and advances in biotechnology. Aljoscha uses the term *Bioism* to describe his artistic vision: to be able in future to create works of art from living matter in order to showcase ultra-networked microorganisms in all their natural beauty, objects that continue

For further press information and images, please contact:

Ineke Rickert, Press and Public Relations, Bucerius Kunst Forum
+49 (0)40 36 09 96 78, presse@buceriuskunstforum.de, buceriuskunstforum.de

to evolve just like living beings. This positive attitude towards biological development is also expressed in the title of the work shown at the Bucerius Kunst Forum: *The Evolutionary Optimism*. The title at the same time conveys the hope for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Ukraine. The work *The Evolutionary Optimism* is composed of a floating object made of hot pink acrylic and three other filigree works that seem to reach upwards from the ground. In his aspiration to lend his objects "liveliness", the artist has arranged them here in interaction with each other.

Purpose of the donation

The donations raised by the two Bucerius Kunst Forum actions will benefit a Culture of Solidarity Fund set up for artists' and cultural initiatives in Ukraine by the European Cultural Foundation in cooperation with other foundations. The aim of the fund is to initially provide urgent cultural assistance but also to stand by Ukraine in the longer term through European support campaigns in the spirit of a common culture of solidarity.

The European Cultural Foundation was established in 1954 with the aim of working towards the vision of a united Europe through culture and education. By developing and promoting cross-border cultural initiatives, the Amsterdam-based foundation contributes to a pan-European sense of cohesion. A common culture of democratic solidarity is irreplaceable if all Europeans are to live together in peace.

Since the outbreak of war in Ukraine, the European Cultural Fund of Solidarity has provided urgent on-site assistance to arts and culture professionals there. In the days and weeks to come, further cultural initiatives will be supported in the following thematic areas: maintaining independent (cultural) media coverage and supporting alternative (digital) media platforms; securing cultural havens within Ukraine as well as for refugee arts and culture professionals in exile; art projects and productions that keep alive the hope for a peaceful future for Ukraine and Europe as a whole.

About the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius

The Bucerius Kunst Forum was established by the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius, which focuses on fostering art and culture as well as intercultural dialogue and is in particular committed to liberal thought, encouraging open political debate and the advocacy of an independent press. Since its founding, the ZEIT-Stiftung has worked to promote exchanges between German and Eastern European journalists. In 2000 it inaugurated the "Young Press of Eastern Europe" prize, renamed the "Free Media Awards" in 2016, to recognise media professionals who persevere with their independent reporting in the face of difficult conditions and even threats. The ZEIT-Stiftung has also sponsored numerous academics from Ukraine and throughout Eastern Europe.

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