

ТЕРОРИСТ

ТЕРРОРИСТ

АДО

TERRORISTA

ECLECTICISM OF UKRAINIAN
WARTIME IDENTITY

СТАТО

TERRORISTA

Confront
Zone

Herausgeber:in

Trends & Identity

Autor:innen

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Kursleitung

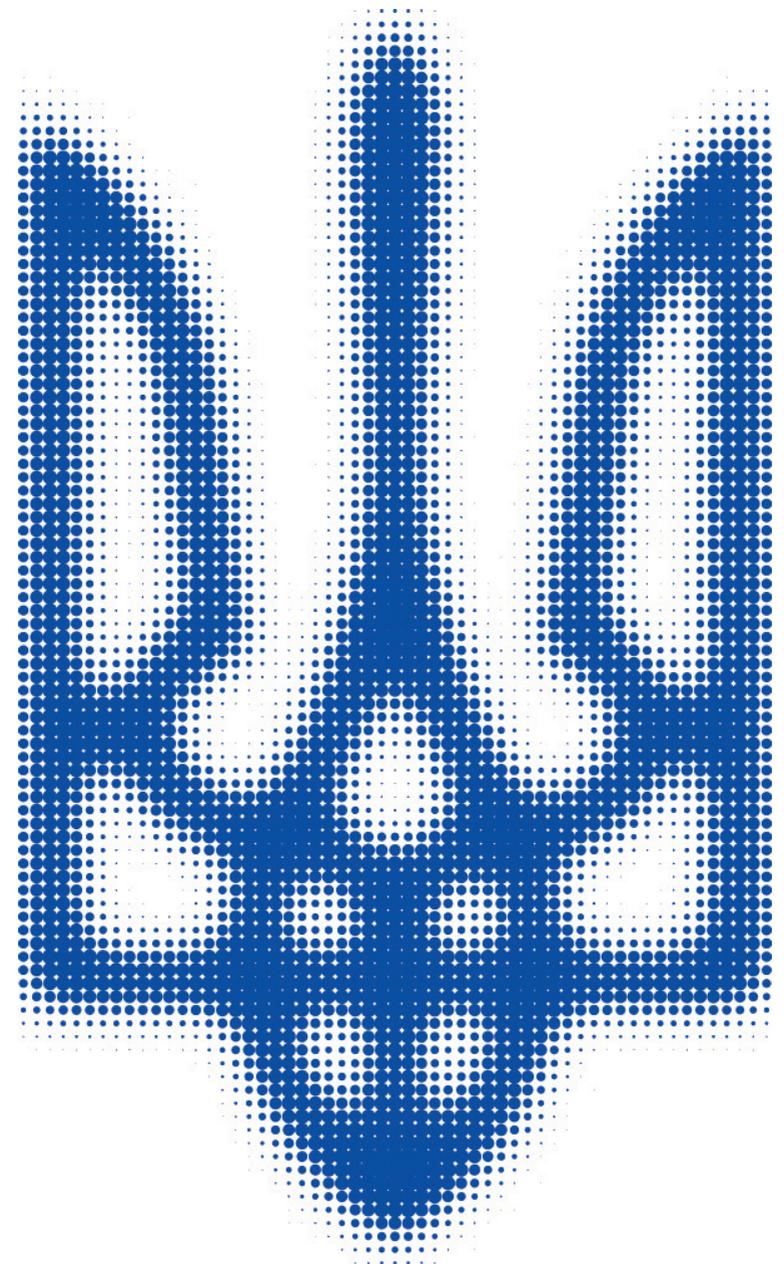
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WAR DESIGNED WARTIME IDENTITIES & phenomenas

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Introduction

THE FULL-SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE HAS FORCED MILLIONS TO CONFRONT WHO THEY ARE AND WHERE THEY BELONG, YET MUCH OF THIS TRANSFORMATION HAPPENS IN-

TERNALLY. IDENTITY SHIFTS QUIETLY IN LANGUAGE CHOICES, HABITS, AND EVEN WHAT PEOPLE CAN LAUGH ABOUT. DISPLACEMENT, UNCERTAINTY, AND COLLECTIVE TRAUMA BLUR PERSONAL BORDERS, MAKING IDENTITY A LIVING, UNCONSCIOUS PROCESS RATHER THAN A FIXED LABEL.

CENTURIES OF RUSSIAN IMPERIAL RULE LEFT LAYERED TRACES: PARTLY ERASED LANGUAGE, DISTORTED HISTORIES, AND COUNTLESS DEATHS AND TRAUMAS. THE WAR FEELS NOT ONLY LIKE A TERRITORIAL INVASION BUT A CONFRONTATION WITH INVISIBLE MENTAL COLONIZATION.

Imperialistic Influence

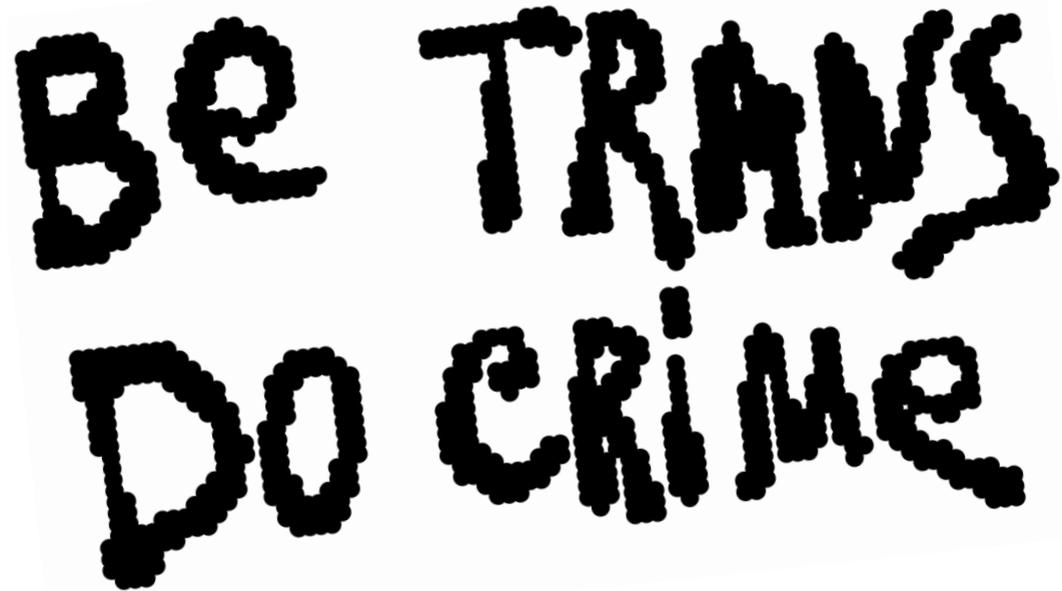
Reclaiming national identity

AMID DESTRUCTION, UKRAINIANS REVIVE FOLK TRADITIONS, RELEARN SUPPRESSED DIALECTS, AND CELEBRATE LOCAL ARTISTS. THIS IS LESS A SUDDEN AWAKENING THAN A SLOW REMEMBERING OF WHAT WAS ALWAYS THERE.

ACROSS UKRAINE, PRACTICAL REBUILDING PROJECTS ARE UNDERWAY DESPITE THE ONGOING WAR. LOCAL GROUPS AND INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATIONS ARE DEVELOPING HOUSING PROGRAMS, INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS, AND CULTURAL SPACES. THESE EFFORTS SHOW THAT PLANNING FOR THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE IS HAPPENING ALONGSIDE IMMEDIATE WARTIME NEEDS.

Future is Now!

IN THIS ZINE, YOU MAY FIND SOME OF THE SOCIETAL CHANGES THAT ARE TRANSFORMING ALONGSIDE THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION. IT MAY NOT ALWAYS BE OBVIOUS, BUT IT CERTAINLY CAN BE FELT IN THE NATIONAL MOOD.



BE TRAMS
DO CRIME

Trends

THE HASHTAG #RUSSIAISATERRORISTSTATE EMERGED IN THE FIRST WEEKS OF RUSSIA'S FULL-SCALE INVASION OF UKRAINE IN FEBRUARY 2022. IT WAS INITIALLY POPULARIZED BY UKRAINIAN SOCIAL-MEDIA USERS TO DRAW GLOBAL ATTENTION TO RUSSIAN ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS, INCLUDING THE SHELLING OF CITIES SUCH AS KHARKIV AND MARIUPOL.

BY SPRING 2022 THE PHRASE HAD BECOME A UNIFYING SLOGAN FOR UKRAINIAN OFFICIALS, ACTIVISTS, AND DIASPORA COMMUNITIES. MEMBERS OF THE UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT USED IT IN OFFICIAL STATEMENTS AND URGED FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO LABEL RUSSIA A STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.

SINCE THEN IT HAS APPEARED IN INTERNATIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS, FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS, AND ADVOCACY POSTS ACROSS PLATFORMS INCLUDING FACEBOOK, TIKTOK, AND TELEGRAM, SERVING BOTH AS A PROTEST LABEL AND A CALL FOR FORMAL RECOGNITION OF RUSSIA AS A TERRORIST STATE BY GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS.



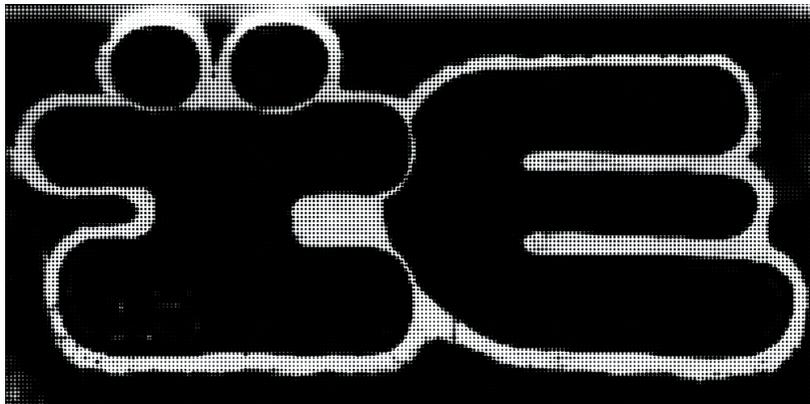
Street Art Activism

REBEL QUEERS IS AN ANONYMOUS ACTIVIST COLLECTIVE IN KYIV KNOWN FOR BOLD STREET GRAFFITI AND STENCIL ART DEMANDING LGBTQ RIGHTS. THE GROUP USES CITY WALLS, UNDERPASSES, AND ABANDONED BUILDINGS AS CANVASES TO CHALLENGE CONSERVATIVE NORMS AND THE INFLUENCE OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH. SLOGANS SUCH AS “QUEER LIBERATION NOW” OR “BE GAY—DO CRIME” APPEAR OVERNIGHT IN CENTRAL DISTRICTS AND ALONG MAJOR TRANSIT ROUTES, OFTEN TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH PRIDE EVENTS OR POLITICAL DEBATES ON EQUALITY LEGISLATION.

THEIR WORK GAINED WIDER ATTENTION AFTER THE KYIV PRIDE, WHEN PHOTOGRAPHS OF THEIR BRIGHTLY COLORED SLOGANS CIRCULATED ON INSTAGRAM AND INDEPENDENT UKRAINIAN MEDIA. REBEL QUEERS DELIBERATELY AVOID PUBLIC LEADERSHIP OR FORMAL ORGANIZATION, KEEPING IDENTITIES SECRET TO PROTECT MEMBERS FROM HARASSMENT AND FAR-RIGHT VIOLENCE.



ЇЄ IS A COLLECTIVE OF STREET ARTISTS IN LVIV WHOSE MINIMALIST TAG. TWO CYRILLIC LETTERS THAT READ AS “YI-YE” HAS BECOME A QUIET BUT RECOGNIZABLE PRESENCE ACROSS THE CITY. FIRST APPEARING IN 2019, THE MARK SHOWS UP ON WALLS, DOORWAYS, AND TRAM STOPS, USUALLY RENDERED IN PLAIN BLACK SPRAY PAINT. SOME LOCALS READ IT AS A PLAY ON THE UKRAINIAN ALPHABET, OTHERS AS A STATEMENT OF LOCAL IDENTITY OR A NOD TO UNDERGROUND ART TRADITIONS.



THE TAG SPREAD DURING THE YEARS FOLLOWING THE 2022 FULL-SCALE INVASION, WHEN QUESTIONS OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL OWNERSHIP GREW SHARPER. PHOTOGRAPHERS AND INDEPENDENT MEDIA HAVE DOCUMENTED IT ON SOCIAL NETWORKS, NOTING ITS APPEARANCE NEAR KEY CULTURAL SITES AND IN NEIGHBORHOODS KNOWN FOR STUDENT LIFE. THE ARTISTS BEHIND ЇЄ REMAIN ANONYMOUS.

SESTRY FELDMAN IS A UKRAINIAN STREET ART PROJECT INITIATED BY TWIN SISTERS MISHEL AND NICOL FELDMAN. THE DUO MOVED TO KYIV IN 2014, WHERE THEY GAINED PROMINENCE IN THE STREET ART SCENE. THEIR WORK IS CHARACTERIZED BY VIBRANT MURALS THAT OFTEN INCORPORATE ELEMENTS OF UKRAINIAN FOLK ART, TAROT SYMBOLISM, AND POLITICAL COMMENTARY.



ONE OF THEIR NOTABLE SERIES INCLUDES A TAROT DECK WHERE FIGURES LIKE VLADIMIR PUTIN ARE DEPICTED AS THE DEVIL AND THE HANGED MAN, REFLECTING THEIR CRITICAL STANCE ON POLITICAL FIGURES. THEIR CREATIONS OFTEN SERVE AS A FORM OF RESISTANCE AND A MEANS TO PROCESS THE SOCIO-POLITICAL LANDSCAPE OF UKRAINE.

Fundraising Strategies

SINCE THE START OF THE FULL-SCALE INVASION, UKRAINIANS HAVE DEVELOPED CREATIVE AND DIVERSE WAYS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE WAR EFFORT, HUMANITARIAN AID, AND REBUILDING EFFORTS. MANY ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS CREATE STRIKING POSTERS, PRINTS, AND MERCHANDISE THAT OFTEN FEATURE BOLD GRAPHICS, SLOGANS, OR CULTURAL REFERENCES. THEY CAN BE SOLD ONLINE OR AT POP-UP EVENTS. PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TO SUPPORT THE ARMY, LOCAL COMMUNITIES, OR REFUGEES.

INFLUENCERS AND BLOGGERS AMPLIFY THESE CAMPAIGNS THROUGH GIVEAWAYS, AUCTIONS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLENGES, TURNING FUNDRAISING INTO INTERACTIVE AND PARTICIPATORY EXPERIENCES. EVEN SMALL INITIATIVES, LIKE LIMITED-EDITION STICKERS, PINS, OR PRINTS, CAN GENERATE SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT WHEN SHARED WIDELY.



Alternative Newsletters

AFTER FEBRUARY 24TH, TELEGRAM BECAME A CENTRAL PLATFORM FOR UKRAINIANS SEEKING NEWS, COORDINATION, AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CHANNELS QUICKLY PROLIFERATED, OFFERING REAL-TIME UPDATES ON MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS, HUMANITARIAN AID, AIR RAID ALERTS, AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. CHANNELS LIKE KYIV INDEPENDENT, UKRAINE NOW, AND NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED GROUPS PROVIDE VERIFIED INFORMATION FASTER THAN TRADITIONAL MEDIA IN MANY CASES, MAKING THEM ESSENTIAL TOOLS FOR SAFETY AND SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.



Ukrainian Collectives Internationally

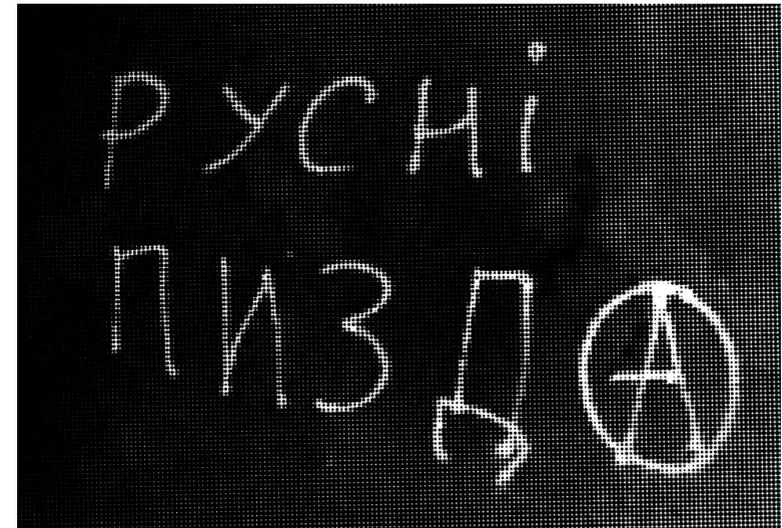
SINCE THE WAR BEGAN, UKRAINIAN COLLECTIVES AROUND THE WORLD HAVE FORMED TO SUPPORT BOTH HUMANITARIAN AID AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION. THESE GROUPS, OFTEN MADE UP OF ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, DESIGNERS, AND ACTIVISTS, ORGANIZE EXHIBITIONS, CONCERTS, WORKSHOPS, AND POP-UP EVENTS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR UKRAINE. PROFITS FROM TICKET SALES, MERCHANDISE, AND ART AUCTIONS ARE DIRECTED TO LOCAL RELIEF EFFORTS, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

BEYOND FUNDRAISING, THESE COLLECTIVES WORK TO MAINTAIN AND PROMOTE UKRAINIAN CULTURE INTERNATIONALLY. THEY HOST ONLINE AND IN-PERSON EVENTS THAT SHOWCASE MUSIC, VISUAL ARTS, LITERATURE, AND FILM, CREATING PLATFORMS FOR DISPLACED CREATORS AND CONNECTING DIASPORIC COMMUNITIES.



Thesis

MY RESEARCH LOOKS AT HOW UKRAINIANS USE CREATIVITY AS A FORM OF RESISTANCE AND IDENTITY-MAKING DURING WAR. I AM INTERESTED IN HOW THESE PRACTICES CAN MOVE BEYOND DOCUMENTATION AND BECOME TOOLS FOR RETHINKING THE FUTURE. IN THE LONG RUN, I WANT TO DEVELOP THIS WORK INTO SOMETHING PRACTICAL, WHETHER DIGITAL OR ANALOG, THAT CAN HELP UKRAINIANS CONNECT, REBUILD, AND STAY RESILIENT GLOBALLY.



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