

Was tun? – Kunst, Film und Design im Spannungsfeld von Krieg und Frieden

<https://www.hslu.ch/de-ch/design-film-kunst/aktuelles/agenda/alle-veranstaltungen/2024/09/25/ringvorlesung-2024/>

Mittwoch, 13. November, 17:00 – 20.00 Uhr:

Macht der Bilder, Ohnmacht der Worte

Mateusz Kapustka (Kunsthistoriker und Bildwissenschaftler)

Svitlana Pidoprygora (Literatur- und Bildwissenschaftlerin)

Moderation: Silvia Henke

Raum 745_055

Stripping Bare the Empire. Ukrainian Resistance as Anti-Imperial Iconoclasm

The paper discusses the Ukrainian response to the historical distortion revealed during the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 from an art and image historical perspective. It focuses on how Ukraine has visually countered Moscow's claims of genuine historical ties with the Kyivan Rus', which were used as the official justification for the invasion. The paper examines literary criticism, visual irony, and activist strategies employed in Ukraine since the beginning of the full-scale war to challenge the one-sided historical narrative imposed by the aggressor. It explores the difference between critical analysis and spontaneous, ephemeral, and activist resistance on one side, and the fundamentality of official misrepresentation of history on the other. The ironic practices of cultural alienation of Ukrainian critics, artists, and activists from the Kremlin regime's narrative, as part of the ongoing war of images during the current conflict, can be seen as *revolutionary* and *iconoclastic*. They not only embody Ukrainian resistance through art, activism, and scholarship but also actively challenge the self-proclaimed image of 'Russianness' itself.

PD Dr. Mateusz Kapustka (University of Zurich) 1993-1998 he studied Art History and Philosophy at the University of Wrocław (Poland); 1998-2013 Assistant Professor at the University of Wrocław; 2009-2017 Post-Doc and ERC/SNF Research Project Coordinator at the University of Zurich (UZH); 2016 habilitation at the UZH, since then Privatdozent at the UZH; 2014-2022 Visiting and Interim Professor at the universities in Zurich, Frankfurt/Main, Poznań, Berlin (FU); 2018 Fellow at the Einstein Center CHRONOI at the FU Berlin; 2013 lecture courses at the Universidade Federal de São Paulo and 2019 at the National Museum Institute in New Delhi and Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi; 2021-2022 Coordinator of ZHAW grant *Shifting Reflections: A Swiss-Indian Research Project on Transcultural Art History* at the UZH; 2022-2023 Interim Professor for Eastern European Art History at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin; topical research areas: anachronism, conflict, and historical evidence in visual media, image propaganda of power (Middle Ages to the 18th c.), images of protest and resistance (20-21st c., Central / Eastern Europe), image concepts in transcultural perspective, visual world models in the history of knowledge.

War Narratives in Frames: From Superheroes to Documentaries in Contemporary Ukrainian Comics

The presentation explores the development of Ukrainian comics from 2014 to the present, focusing on the shift from superhero narratives—also rooted in historical context—to impactful documentary comics. It traces the collaboration of scriptwriters, artists, and journalists who transform diverse war experiences into comics through artistic perception. Captured in real-time, these narratives highlight the unique nature of Ukrainian documentary comics, created without temporal distance, as a powerful testament to the 'Power of Images' in depicting the complexity of war.

Prof. Dr. Svitlana Pidoprygora holds a Doctor of Philological Sciences in Ukrainian Literature and Theory of Literature. Previously a professor at Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University (suspended since 2022), she is currently a lecturer at the University of Innsbruck. Her research spans visual, comics, media, and Ukrainian studies. Her recent works include the monograph *Ukrainian Experimental Prose* (2018), "Ukrainian Comics and War in Ukraine" (TRAFO Blog, 2022), and "Drawn History" in *Appropriating History* (2024). She has been a Prisma Ukraina Fellow (2022) and URIS-Fellow (August 2023– July 2024).