

Yara Arts Group and Poets of Queens present:



Image: painting by Nathalie Lete

Yara Arts Group and Poets of Queens present:

Music by Julian Kytasty

Poems by

Luba Gawur

Bob Holman

Julia Kolchinsky Dasbach

Askold Melnychuk

Olga Livshin

Genya Turovskaya

Vasyl Makhno

Christina Turczyn

Curated by Olena Jennings

Directed by Virlana Tkacz

Tech: Martin Nikolov

THE POETS and ARTISTS

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, to postwar immigrant parents, **LUBA GAWUR** is a first-generation Ukrainian-American. Some of her English and Ukrainian-language poems have been published in *Terminus*, *Kubans'kyi Kurier*, and *Suchasnist' Casper Star Tribune*. In 2016, Crisis Chronicles Press published her collection of poetry, "Scraping the Sky" and Smoloskyp published her Ukrainian-language book, "The Tale About the Little House by the Little Woods."

BOB HOLMAN is a poet most often connected with the oral tradition, spoken word, poetry slams and digital poetry. He created the part of Captain John Smith in Yara's *Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine* and performed in *1917-2017: Tychyna Zhadan & the Dogs at La MaMa*. He generated two award-winning PBS series, *The United States of Poetry*, and the documentary on endangered languages, *Language* www.bobholman.com

JULIA KOLCHINSKY DASBACH emigrated from Dnipro, Ukraine as a Jewish refugee in 1993, when she was six years old. She is the author of three poetry collections: *The Many Names for Mother*, winner the Wick Poetry Prize (Kent State University Press, 2019), finalist for the Jewish Book Award; *Don't Touch the Bones* (Lost Horse Press, 2020), winner of the 2019 Idaho Poetry Prize; and *40 WEEKS*, forthcoming from YesYes Books in 2023.

OLGA LIVSHIN was raised in Odessa and Moscow, and came to San Diego as a Jewish refugee with her parents. Her poetry and translations appear in *Ploughshares*, *the Kenyon Review Online*, and *Modern Poetry in Translation*, among other journals, as well as anthologies including *Words for War: New Poetry from Ukraine*. She is the author of *A Life Replaced: Poems with Translations from Anna Akhmatova and Vladimir Gandelman*.

VASYL MAKHNO Vasyl Makhno is a Ukrainian poet, prose writer, essayist, and translator. He is the author of fourteen collections of poetry and most recently the book of poems *One Sail House* (2021). He has also published a book of short stories, *The House in Baiting Hollow* (2015), a novel, *The Eternal Calendar* (2019), and four books of essays, *The Gertrude Stein Memorial Cultural and Recreation Park* (2006), *Horn of Plenty* (2011), *Suburbs and Borderland* (2019), and *Biking along the Ocean* (2020).

ASKOLD MELNYCZUK's book of stories, *The Man Who Would Not Bow*, appeared in 2021. His four novels have variously been named a New York Times Notable, an LA Times Best Books of the Year, and an Editor's Choice by the American Library Association's *Booklist*. He is also co-editor of [From Three Worlds](#), an anthology of Ukrainian Writers. His published translations include work by Oksana Zabuzhko, Marjana Savka, Bohdan Boychuk, and Ivan Drach.

Currently a writer and visual artist, **CHRISTINA TURCZYN** has contributed watercolors to twenty exhibits including Cornell Has Talent. In her career as a writer,

she has over one hundred publications in diverse magazines and journals. Those span international events covered at the Guggenheim, and The World Around Summit. She is a member of the Women's Foreign Policy Group.

GENYA TUROVSKAYA was born in Kyiv, Ukraine, and grew up in New York City. She is the author of *The Breathing Body of This Thought* (Black Square Editions) as well as numerous chapbooks. Her poetry has appeared in *Asymptote*, *Chicago Review*, *Conjunctions*, *Fence*, *PEN Poetry Series*, *Pocket Samovar*, *Sangam Poetry*, *Seedings*, *The Elephants*, and other publications. She has received a Fund for Poetry Grant, a MacDowell Colony Fellowship, a Montana Artist Refuge Fellowship, a Witter Bynner Translation Residency at Santa Fe Art Institute, and a Whiting Award. She lives in New York City where she is a practicing psychotherapist.

VIRLANA TKACZ heads the Yara Arts Group and has directed over thirty original shows at La MaMa Theatre in New York, as well as in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Bishkek, Ulaanbaatar, and Ulan Ude. She has translated Ukrainian poetry with Wanda Phipps since 1989 and was awarded the NEA Poetry Translation Fellowship for her work on Serhiy Zhadan's poetry.

MARTIN NIKOLOV is a Bulgarian-American actor and filmmaker. His acting experience includes *The Room* and *The Danube* at the Hangar Theater, *The Flick*, *The Antipodes*, *Dogfight*, *Fine*. with Vassar Drama, the indie feature *I Want to Live on Mars*, *The Night Crew* at NYFA Australia, and *He Loves You* with Vassar Film. He graduated from Vassar College in 2020. mvnikolov.com @mvnikolov

YARA ARTS GROUP, established in 1990, is a resident company at La MaMa, the acclaimed experimental theater in New York. Yara has created forty theatre pieces based on extensive research in Eastern Europe, Siberia and Asia, in Yara's signature style of multilingual dialogue and songs supported by evocative visuals and documentation. Yara also created hundreds of traditional music, poetry and art events. **Yara Arts Group 306 East 11th St #3B, New York, NY 10003 (212)475-6474 yara@prodigy.net www.yaraartsgroup.net**

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