

## MIGUEL ABREU GALLERY

**Event:** A Conversation with Marta Kuzma, Lika Volk and Anton Varga

*In conjunction with the exhibition Stolen Sun*

**Date:** Sunday, October 23, 2022, 2 PM

**Location:** 36 Orchard Street, New York, NY 10002

Miguel Abreu Gallery is pleased to welcome Marta Kuzma, Lika Volk and Anton Varga on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, for a conversation in conjunction with the current exhibition *Stolen Sun* featuring the work of Ukrainian artists Nikita Kadan, Zhanna Kadyrova, Alexandra Kadzevich, and Open Group.

The timeline of actions that marks the broad, global engagement with the ongoing war in Ukraine seemingly begins with Russia's full-scale invasion of the country in February of this year. Yet the longstanding history of war and conflict in Ukraine contains a series of events driven by inspired and controversial figures who helped shape a consciousness that continues to fuel the acts of resistance we witness today. Each speaker brings to the discussion their firsthand accounts of navigating complex and often closed-off systems of the past, and their cross-national work during an abrupt period of openness brought on with this latest, violent uprooting. They will share insights about some of the principles of self-organization that have informed networks of solidarity in Ukraine for decades, and discuss how the artist-aid worker-soldier-citizens are presently operating. What can be learned from their deployment, and how might they invent and construct the future?

**Seating is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.**

*Marta Kuzma is a tenured Professor of Art in Critical Practice at the Yale School of Art, where she had served as the first woman to be appointed Dean from 2016 through 2021. Previous to her tenure as Dean at Yale School of Art, Professor Kuzma had served as the Chancellor of the Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm in Sweden, the Director of the Office of Contemporary Art in Oslo in Norway, and the founding Director of the Soros Center for Contemporary Art in Kyiv from 1990 – 2000. Earlier in her career she directed the international exhibitions department under Cornell Capa at the International Center of Photography. In addition to serving as a tenured Professor of Art at the Yale School of Art, Kuzma is a visiting Professor in Art Theory in the Graduate Program of Visual Arts in the University of Architecture (IUAV) in Venice, Italy and at Bocconi University in Milan, Italy. She holds a post graduate degree in Aesthetics and Art Theory from the Centre for Research in Modern European Philosophy in London and an undergraduate degree from Barnard College in NYC.*

*Lika Volk (b. Odessa, Ukraine) is an artist and curator based in New York, whose practice includes design, painting, and intervention. Her work has been exhibited at a number of institutions including the Museum of Arts and Design (2014), the Queens Museum (2015), The Knockdown Center (2018), all in New York; as well as The Luminary, St. Louis, and the Ross Art Museum, Ohio, among others. Volk participated in the Queens Museum Studio Program in 2014 and 2015, and was a finalist for the Rome Prize in 2016. In 2019 she organized the CCI (Cultural Capital Introspection) program in Uzhhorod, with support from the American Embassy in Kyiv. This two-year residency, seminar and exhibition program brought artists, writers, and curators from the United States to Ukraine. In 2021 she established The Always Fresh, a mobile gallery space in a former pizzeria on NYC's Lower East Side, which presented three exhibitions of international artists and "aimed to explore, expose, and exploit misaligned expectations."*

*Anton Varga (b. 1989, Uzhhorod) lives and works in New York. He studied at the Transcarpathian Art Institute in Uzhhorod and graduated from the Kharkiv State Academy of Design and Arts. In 2014 he was recipient of the Gaude Polonia residency scholarship from Poland's Ministry of Culture. Varga's practice spans from painting and drawing, to installation and video. In 2012 he co-founded Open Group, whose work incorporates research focusing on the interaction and communication between people, artists, situations and spaces, and is based on the notion of "collective work." Open Group won the Special Distinction of the PinchukArtCentre Prize in 2013, and the Main Prize in 2015. Their works were featured in the Ukrainian Pavilion at the 56th Venice Biennale, and in the 57th Venice Biennale's Future Generation Art Prize. They curated Dependence Degree, Collective Practices of Young Ukrainian Artists 2000–2016 in Wrocław, Poland, and the Ukrainian Pavilion at the 58th Venice Biennale. Varga is currently in the MFA program at Rutgers University.*

For more information, please contact the gallery:

**Miguel Abreu Gallery**

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New York, NY 10002

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**Hours:** Wednesday–Sunday, 10:00AM–6:00PM or by appointment

**Subway:** F to East Broadway; B, D to Grand Street; J, M, Z to Delancey / Essex Street

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