

ENGLISH

GALLERIA CONTINUA

SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING LES MOULINS HABANA ROMA SAO PAULO PARIS

87 rue du Temple, 75003 Paris, France. Tuesday - Saturday 11am-7pm and by appointment
+33 (0)1 43 70 00 88 | www.galleriacontinua.com

ZHANNA KADYROVA

PALIANYTSIA

from June 30 to August 6, 2022

GALLERIA CONTINUA / Paris is pleased to present PALIANYTSIA, a project by the artist Zhanna Kadyrova. Not just an exhibition, but also a fundraising project and an initiative to raise awareness and denounce the violence of the ongoing war in Ukraine.

The project was presented at the 59th Venice Biennale and other important art venues, such as the Stavanger Art Museum in Norway and the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial in Niigata, Japan. The exhibition features works in stone and embroideries as well as two documentaries about the project.

In this frightening situation, Zhanna Kadyrova conceived and produced this project from a place in western Ukraine, a village called Berezovo, discovered by herself and her co-author Denis Ruban. The place is isolated and they managed to transform an old house into an exhibition and workshop space, installing electricity, internet and water.

Protected by the Carpathian Mountains, the village of Berezovo is a place nearby the river Rika, that smooths the stones in his bed. This is the starting point of the whole project: the stones, with their round and simple shapes, remind the artist of bread, also called Palianytsia in Ukrainian. Palianytsia is a word that has become very important since the beginning of the war and took on a new dimension as the Russian occupiers could not pronounce it correctly, it quickly became a shibboleth, a word that distinguishes friend from enemy.

By slicing or just smoothing stones found in the nearby river, Zhanna Kadyrova not only gives them the shape of traditional bread but also a new meaning, as these stones also become a symbol of cultural and territorial resistance.

Traditional embroideries are presented in parallel, some chosen from the stalls of flea markets in Paris others from collections of antique Ukrainian embroideries, to which Zhanna Kadyrova has added the inscription "RAID ALERT". The film presented, directed by Ivan Sautkin, is a documentary of the whole project and of course the historical testimony of the tragedy in the country. This video is in dialogue with an extract from a documentary by Alina Prisich, taken at the first screening of the film PALIANYTSIA.

Zhanna Kadyrova has always worked with recycled and common materials associated with the construction and architectural industries, such as tiles, ceramics, bricks and cement. Zhanna Kadyrova's work questions notions such as community, the boundary between public and private space and the relationship between the artwork and the viewer. Her practice has since its beginnings touched on disciplines as diverse as sculpture, photography, video and performance. While playing with the aesthetic canons of socialist ideals still present in the heritage of contemporary Ukraine, Kadyrova's perspective is informed by the plastic and symbolic values of urban building materials. Her use of them refers both to the construction of images, ideas or even ideologies, but also to their possible deconstruction.

PALIANYTSIA is Zhanna Kadyrova's first autobiographical project. She uses her profits to buy essential goods and materials for friends who have remained in Kiev or joined the territorial defense forces.

ZHANNA KADYROVA

Zhanna Kadyrova was born in 1981 in Brovary, the city in Kyiv region, Ukraine, where she currently lives and works. She graduated from Taras Shevchenko State Art School and received the Kazimir Malevich Artist Award, the Sergey Kuryokhin Modern Art Award for Public Art, the Grand Prix of the Kyiv Sculpture Project (all 2012) as well as a Pinchuk Art Centre Special Prize (2011) and Main Prize Winner (2013). Her works have been extensively exhibited worldwide, recently at the M17 Contemporary Art Centre, Kyiv (2021), the Shanghai International Sculpture Project JISP, Shanghai, the Ukrainian Institute in New York (2020). She participated at the 58th, 56th and 55th Venice Biennale, respectively in 2019, 2015 and 2013. Kadyrova's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including exhibitions at Centre Pompidou and Palais de Tokyo, Paris, Bureau for Cultural Translations, Leipzig, the Kunstraum Innsbruck, Austria, the Ludwig Museum, Budapest, the National Art Museum of Ukraine, Museum of Modern Art in Poland and the Pinchuk Art Centre (2012, 2013) in Kyiv, where her first major retrospective will be held in 2023.