

## **Speakers and Moderators:**

**Dr. Maria Rita Acetoso** - a Culture Specialist with more than 15 years of experience in heritage management and cultural cooperation. She joined UNESCO in 2015, first in Afghanistan and then in Iraq, where she led the UAE funded. Project for the reconstruction of historical landmarks in the Old City of Mosul. Currently, she serves as Chief of Unit at the UNESCO Antenna in Kyiv, where she has recently moved to coordinate the cultural program in Ukraine.

Before joining UNESCO, she served as Culture Specialist in several cultural programs promoted by UN-Agencies, Governmental Institutions and Universities.

**Dr. Olena Babakova** - Historian, journalist, researcher focusing on migration in Central and Eastern Europe. She completed master degree studies at Taras Szewczenko University in Kiev. She wrote her PhD thesis on Ukrainian elites in the 1st Republic of Poland at University in Białystok. She writes about Polish-Ukrainian relations, foreign policy, migration processes in the EU and neighboring countries, women in public life. Member of the association of women involved in international policy FemGlobal (Poland).

**Yuriy Banakhevych** - Journalist and translator. For over 10 years, he has been a correspondent for Ukrainian media in Poland. Commentator in Ukrainian, Polish and foreign media on the international situation in the region, specialising in Ukrainian-Polish relations

**Edwin Bendyk** -Journalist, social activist, writer. Since July 2020, president of the Stefan Batory Foundation. Head of the Science section at "Polityka" weekly. Founder of the Center for Future Studies at Collegium Civitas and lecturer at the Graduate School for Social Research, Polish Academy of Sciences. Author of the books: "The Poisoned Well: On Power and Freedom" (2002), "Antimatrix: Man in the Network Labyrinth" (2004), "Love, War, Revolution: Essays for a Time of Crisis" (2009), "Network Rebellion" (2012), and "How to Live in a World Gone Mad" (co-authored with Jacek Santorski and Witold Orłowski, 2014). Member of the Polish PEN Club. A supporter of alternative art, participant in numerous grassroots initiatives, and an enthusiast of local micro-utopias.

**Anastasia Bondar** - serves as the Deputy Minister of Culture and Information Policy, overseeing international relations and digital transformation initiatives. She brings a wealth of experience to her role, having previously held positions such as Chief Digital Transformation Officer (CDTO) and Deputy Head of the Odessa Regional State Administration. With over a decade of experience in the telecommunications industry, Anastasia has a strong background in business development and product management. She has worked in various capacities within EMEA markets for Ericsson, a leading tech

corporation. Her international experience includes serving as the Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) for a mobile operator within the Telia Sonera group in Nepal. Anastasia has also held leadership roles in project and program management, focusing on strategic development and operational activities in the Telecom, FMCG and Education sectors. Her qualifications extend to teaching, translation, and political science, with a master's degree in international relations and politics.

**Sebastian Cichocki** - the Chief Curator and Head of Research at the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw (MSN), where he was a member of curatorial teams of *Who Will Write the History of Tears: Artists on Women's Rights* (2021), *Primary Forms* (2021-ongoing), *The Penumbra Age: Art in the Times of Planetary Crisis* (2020), *Never Again: Art against War and Fascism in the 20th and 21st centuries* (2019), *Making Use: Life in Postartistic Times* (2016), and other exhibition and research programmes. Sebastian Cichocki is the Curator of the 40th EVA International – Ireland's Biennale of Contemporary Art, 2023. He is a curator at The Forum for Future of Culture at the Powszechny Theatre, Warsaw, a platform for feminist, ecological and antifascist activism and culture, and The Sunflower—Solidarity Community Center in Warsaw, an aid, culture and counter-propaganda initiative for those who suffered from Russia's invasion on Ukraine. Cichocki has published extensively and lectured at various venues, including Dhaka Art Summit, the Kochi Biennale, Salzburg International Summer Academy of Fine Arts, Gwangju Biennale, and The Bauhaus-Universität Weimar. He is a 2018 fellow at the Center for Curatorial Leadership, MoMA, New York.

**Aikaterini Dori** - born in Athens, Greece in 1979. After school in Athens, she studied Classical Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Marburg in Germany, where received Master's degree in 2004. Afterwards completed a Museum Studies Program at the University of Oldenburg in Germany. Finally, she received second Master's degree in Modern History from the University of Heidelberg. She worked for several years as a freelancer for museums in Germany in the field of historical education. From 2016 to 2018 she completed a museum traineeship at the Historical Museum in Frankfurt/Main (scholarship holder). Between 2019 and 2023 I worked as a research associate in the education sector at the Berlin Wall Foundation in Berlin. Since September 2023 she has been a curator for social and economic history at the City Museum of Dresden with a focus on participation and working with communities.

**Valéry Freland** - the Executive Director of ALIPH, a role he's held since September 2018. He oversees the strategic implementation and management of this Geneva-based international organization. A French career diplomat, Freland's extensive experience includes serving as Consul General of France in Boston (2015-2018), Deputy Director of Culture at the Quai d'Orsay, and Diplomatic Advisor to the French Minister of Culture

and Communication. He is a graduate of Panthéon-Sorbonne University, Sciences Po, and ENA. He is an Officer of the French Order of Arts and Letters.

**Dmytro Hainetdinov** - Deputy Director General for Research, National Museum of the History of Ukraine in the Second World War. Born in 1992 in the city of Poltava, Ukraine. Studied history at the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Since 2014, he has been working at the War Museum as a tour guide, head of educational department, head of international cooperation department, and deputy director general for research. Ex-coordinator of the educational programs of the Museum. Participant of home and international exhibitions, particularly those representing the documentation of the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war by the Museum. Spheres of professional interest: museification and memorialization of traumatic history, cultural diplomacy, museum education.

**Oleksandr Knyha** - born on March 26, 1959. He graduated from the Kyiv Institute of Culture with a degree in directing. Since 1989, he has been the director of the Mykola Kulish Kherson Regional Academic Music and Drama Theater. He holds the title of People's Artist of Ukraine.

In 1998, he founded the International Theater Festival "Melpomene of Tavia," which continued to take place even during the full-scale war. Since 2019, he has served as the head of the Eurasian Theater Association, headquartered in Maltepe, Istanbul. He is a deputy of the Kherson Regional Council and secretary of the Committee on Culture and Human Capital. On March 23, 2022, he was arrested by occupying forces. After several interrogations by FSB representatives, he managed to escape to Ukrainian-controlled territory. He revived the theater's activities, first in Poltava, then in Kyiv. On November 19, he returned to Kherson and resumed work at the theater, reuniting the team that had been scattered across the world. Today, the theater in Kherson continues its work, using bomb shelters as artistic venues for performances, concerts, exhibitions, and programs for children who remain in the city.

**Dr. Olena Kochergina** - the International Humanitarian Law Coordinator at the Ukrainian Red Cross with 25 years of experience in the legal field. Previously, she was a partner at a leading Ukrainian law firm and worked as a barrister, advising clients. She has also held senior roles at a Swiss NGO and a Big 4 firm in Ukraine. Dr. Kochergina was named on Ukraine's Best Lawyers List and holds a PhD in Public International Law.

**Andrij Lubka** - a Ukrainian writer, poet, and translator, born in 1987 in Riga. He graduated from Uzhhorod National University and the University of Warsaw. Author of numerous novels, short story collections, and poetry, his work has been translated into many languages, including Polish (e.g., *Carbide*, *Killer*). A recipient of the Joseph Conrad-Korzeniowski Literary Prize in 2024, Lyubka is also a member of the Taras Shevchenko National Prize Committee of Ukraine. Beyond literature, he's actively

involved in social and political initiatives. Since the 2022 Russian invasion, he has volunteered for the Ukrainian Armed Forces, providing 335 vehicles to the army by early 2025. In 2024, he became the director of the Institute of Central European Strategy.

**Anna Łazar** - curator, author, and translator. She has curated numerous exhibitions, including "Revolutionary Experimental Space. History" (Kyiv, 2024/2025), "Watch this moment tremble" (Białystok, 2024), and "In what a beautiful place we are" (Łódź, 2022). She was responsible for the "Free Word" program in Gdańsk (2022-2024). She has translated books by Kateryna Dysa and Ilya Kaminsky and edited art publications. She worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a cultural diplomat (Kyiv, St. Petersburg) and a curator at the Museum of Art in Łódź. Member of the IBL PAN Women's Archive and the Polish section of AICA. Director of Ujazdowski Castle. Centre for Contemporary Art

**Błażej Moder** - graduate in international relations, has a strong background in the public sector. He served as Vice President and later President of the Board at Łódź Regional Development Agency SA (2007-2011) and was a Board Member of Łódź Infrastructure Company Sp. z o.o. (2011-2012). From 2012 to 2015, he directed the New Łódź Center, overseeing the redevelopment of the city center. Since 2015, he has been the Director of EC1 Łódź City of Culture, a cultural institution revitalizing a historic power plant into cultural and educational centers like the National Film Culture Center and the Science and Technology Center.

**Joanna Mosiej** - She has worked as a media expert for 15 years. She worked as Managing Director at Gazeta Wyborcza and Wysokie Obcasy, where she was responsible for the digital transformation of the company and the development of its subscription model. She was also the editorial director of the weekly magazine Wysokie Obcasy.

**Daniel Muzyczuk** - curator and art critic. Head of the Modern Art Department at Muzeum Sztuki in Łódź. Muzyczuk curated numerous projects, such as: *Long Gone Susan Philipsz, Gone to Croatan* (with Robert Rumas), *MORE IS MORE* (with Agnieszka Pindera and Joanna Zielińska), *The Melancholy of Resistance: Works from the M HKA Collection* (with Agnieszka Pindera), *Views 2011, Sounding the Body Electric: Experiments in Art and Music in Eastern Europe 1957–1984* (with David Crowley), *Notes from the Underground: Eastern European Alternative Art and Music Scene 1968–1994* (with David Crowley), *Museum of Rhythm* (with Natasha Ginwala), and *Through the Soundproof Curtain: The Polish Radio Experimental Studio* (with Michał Mendyk). He was co-curator of the Polish Pavilion of the 55th Venice Biennale (with Agnieszka Pindera) and was the winner (together with Agnieszka Pindera) of the Igor Zabel Competition in 2011. He is a member of Grupa Budapeszt. From 2008 to 2011, he was a curator at the Centre of Contemporary Art Znaki Czasu (CoCA) in Toruń. (2023)

**Dr. Olesia Ostrovska - Luta** - the Director General of National Art and Culture Museum Complex "Mystetskyi Arsenal" (Art Arsenal), as well as the Board member of the Warm City platform for initiatives (Ivano-Frankivsk) and the CEDOS think tank (Kyiv). Until recently, she was the Board member of the Ukrainian Institute and the East Europe Foundation, as well as the head of the Program Board, Social Capital program, at the International Renaissance Foundation. She was the Head of analytics at pro.mova consulting company and a founding member of Culture2025 independent platform for development of a national strategy for culture.

**Dr. Julia Pagel** - a secretary general of NEMO, the Network of European Museum Organisations. NEMO acts as the European umbrella for national museum organisations and speaks for over 30,000 museums in Europe. Since 2019, she has been a member of the EU Commission Expert Group on Cultural Heritage and she serves as member of various advisory boards of European cultural heritage initiatives, such as Europeana and the European Heritage Hub. Julia has initiated numerous international cooperation projects in the museum field around professional capacity building, the digital and sustainable transformation.

**Myroslav Poberezhnyi** - born on March 27, 1976, in Lviv, Ukraine. In 1998, he graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy at Ivan Franko National University of Lviv with a degree in Philosophy. From 2001 to 2005, he pursued doctoral studies at the Graduate School for Social Research at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. Since 2006, he has been working at the Lviv Historical Museum. Since 2017, he has held the position of Head of the Exhibition Department "Korniakt Palace". He is the author of publications in scholarly museum journals. His academic interests focus on the provenance and attribution of museum artifacts. He has curated several exhibition projects at the Lviv Historical Museum, including: *In the Lviv Salon* (2019), *Noble Adventurers* (2021), *Fashionable Centuries* (2023), *Doctors and Medicines* (2025).

**Ihor Poronyk** - born on October 15, 1959, in Kobeliaky, Poltava region, Ukraine. Since 2015, he has been serving as Acting Director of the Odesa Museum of Western and Eastern Art. He holds a degree in Architecture from the Odesa Institute of Civil Engineering (1982) and completed a journalism program under the Odesa Regional Union of Journalists (1987). With over 45 years of professional experience, Ihor Popronyk has worked in architecture, heritage protection, and cultural management. He previously headed the department for the preservation of historical and cultural monuments at the Odesa Regional State Administration. He has received honorary diplomas and awards from regional and city authorities, as well as the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of South Africa in Odesa.

**Mykyta Poturaiev** - elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the 30th Annual Session of the OSCE PA in Vancouver in July 2023. A member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the Servant of the People Party since 2019, he serves as Chairman of the Committee on Humanitarian and Information Policy. He holds a degree in Political Science from the Philology Faculty at Dnipro National University. A media and political expert, he has held various positions at non-profit organisations and media companies. Furthermore, he founded the Quantum Futures Lab, which focuses on Ukrainian development. Mr Poturaiev is the Head of the Ukrainian Delegation to the OSCE PA and serves as co-chair of the Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine.

**Kaja Puto** - Chief editor of KrytykaPolityczna.pl. Journalist, editor and commentator on international affairs. She specialises in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Germany. Passionate about social change, urban planning and transport, especially railways. She is the winner of the Polish-German Tadeusz Mazowiecki Journalist Award (2020) and has been nominated for both the Grand Press (2019) and the PAP Ryszard Kapuściński Award (2024). She has been published in Polish, German and international media. She is associated with Krytyka Polityczna and the n-ost network, which focuses on reporting on Eastern Europe. From 2015 to 2018, she was Vice President of the Korporacja Ha!art publishing house. She is a graduate of MISH and Philosophy at Jagiellonian University and also studied Eastern Studies in Berlin and Tbilisi.

**Helene Rånlund** - the General Director of the Swedish Defense History Museums authority, as well as the chairwoman of ICOM Sweden, the Swedish section of the international organization for museums and professionals in the museum area. During the spring of 2023, Helene Rånlund travelled with a colleague from the Swedish National Archives to Ukraine, where she was for almost two weeks. The aim was to find out more about the importance of cultural heritage in and before war. Helene Rånlund has been the driving force in several collaborations between Swedish and Ukrainian cultural institutions, including the National Museum of the History of Ukraine in the Second World War in Kyiv.

**Rafał Rogulski** - Director of European Network Remembrance and Solidarity, has been officially appointed for another term by Deputy Prime Minister of Poland and Minister for Culture and National Heritage Piotr Gliński. Rafał Rogulski studied cultural and political science at the Universities of Wrocław and Marburg, and participated in the Executive MBA programme at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. He was an assistant and then an advisor to Professor Władysław Bartoszewski, first at the Polish Robert Schuman Foundation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1998–2001), and later at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland (2008–12). From 2001 to 2005 he was secretary of the Culture Department at the Polish Embassy in Berlin. In the late 1990s Rogulski worked as a journalist for the daily Życie (Life) and the bimonthly journal Europa. In 2010, Ministers Tomasz Merta and Andrzej Przewoźnik entrusted him with

the creation and management of the ENRS Secretariat, which in 2015 became the Institute of European Network Remembrance and Solidarity.

**Simon Schlegel** - the Ukraine program director at the Center for Liberal Modernity in Berlin. Until the end of 2024, he was a senior analyst for the International Crisis Group in Kyiv. Earlier positions in humanitarian aid, the civil peace service, and as a social scientist took him to Kyiv and Odesa.

**Katarzyna Sokołowska** - cultural manager, graduate of German philology at Wrocław University, studied at Heidelberg University and completed an MBA in managerial studies. She gained her professional experience, among others, in managerial positions in public institutions involved in the promotion of Polish culture (Polish Institutes in Leipzig, Berlin and Düsseldorf). She has also worked for Polish and international non-governmental organisations and in the private sector. Since January 2025, director of the POLONIKA National Institute of Polish Cultural Heritage Abroad

**Monika Szewczyk** - Graduate of art history at the Catholic University of Lublin (graduated in 1985), member of AICA. Since 1990, she has run the Arsenal Gallery in Białystok, considered one of the most important in Poland, founder and president (2004-2013) of the Podlaskie Association for the Encouragement of Fine Arts. She is the curator of Collection II, an impressive collection of contemporary art collected jointly by the Arsenal Gallery and Podlasie Zachęta, and has curated many exhibitions of contemporary art.

**Yurii Tkach** - a historian, philologist, Master of Public Administration, and cultural heritage expert. Since 2018, he has served as the Director of the Hryhorii Galagan Chernihiv Regional Art Museum. With over 20 years of leadership experience in education and culture, he previously held the position of Head of the Department of Culture and Tourism of the Chernihiv City Council (2011–2016). He is the initiator of the museum's development as a socio-cultural hub and the founder or co-founder of numerous cultural, artistic, and educational initiatives, including Ukraine's first Festival of Monumental Art "Reboot " (2021). In 2024, he served as a cultural heritage expert for the U-LEAD with Europe programme and was a trainer for the Cultural Transformation Lab (a project by the Goethe-Institut and House of Europe, funded by the EU). His areas of expertise include integrating cultural heritage into artistic practice and the creative industries, strengthening the institutional capacity of cultural institutions, resource mobilization, strategic communication, and adapting cultural organizations to current challenges.

**Dr. Bohdan Tykholoz** - is a Ukrainian literary critic, museum worker, publicist, cultural manager, director of the Franko House (officially known as the Ivan Franko National Literary and Memorial Museum in Lviv), Ukrainian philologist, researcher and promoter of Ukrainian culture in the world, and above all of Ivan Franko's life and work. PhD in Philology, Senior Researcher, Associate Professor at Ivan Franko National University of Lviv (at one time Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Journalism). The Author of more than 200 works, including such books as "Franko from A to Z", "Doctor F.", "Franko as a Text", and others. He is a member of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine, and the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Head of the NGO "Association of Ivan Franko Museums". A Knight of the Order of Merit, III degree, the winner of numerous awards. An Honorary Citizen of Vynnyky. A Scholar of the Austrian Academic Exchange Service OeAD, of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland programs: Thesaurus Poloniae and Gaude Polonia, etc. An Expert of the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation.

**Dr. Ludwika Włodek** - reporter and sociologist, currently lecturing at the University of Warsaw. Her expertise lies in nationalisms and identity politics. She is also keenly interested in systemic transformation processes, decolonization, and migration patterns, with a focus on regions spanning from Central Asia through Central Europe to France.