YAROSLAVA KRUTOVA

When tomato becomes a piece of cake
Yaroslava Krutova is a Ukrainian multidisciplinary artist whose practice spans painting, video, performance, and research. Drawing on her background in sociology, she investigates the ways personal and collective identities are shaped through communication, language, memory, and social structures. Her work explores how people construct meaning, navigate cultural differences, and negotiate belonging within changing environments. Following her relocation to the Netherlands after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, questions of displacement, adaptation, and home became central to her artistic research. Through collaborations with local communities and artists, she developed an interest in the emotional and psychological processes involved in building new connections while carrying memories of previous places and lives. In recent years, her practice has increasingly shifted toward abstract painting. Through layered compositions, gesture, texture, and material experimentation, she examines experiences that often resist direct representation: the instability of language, the fragmentation of memory, the formation of identity, and the emotional traces left by movement between cultures. Her paintings function as visual landscapes of transformation, where communication extends beyond words and meaning emerges through ambiguity, intuition, and sensory experience. Across different media, Yaroslava's work reflects on themes of belonging, estrangement, resilience, and the search for home, inviting viewers to consider how identities are continuously shaped through encounters with others, places, and cultural contexts.

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/kruttova/
www.youtube.com/c/ATCHERRYGARDEN

EDUCATION

2010 - 2015 Sociology National Technical University Kharkiv Politechnic Institute diploma

EXHIBITIONS

2025 ENERGY foundation B.a.d Rotterdam, Netherlands During Art Rotterdam in Ahoy, Foundation B.a.d (ten minutes away from Ahoy) shows the group exhibition ϟ ENERGY ϟ, with works by both members (those living and/or working in B.a.d) as well as guest artists. Our location, Talingstraat 5, is a beautiful school building designed between 1953-1955. In and around this building, the artists of ϟ ENERGY ϟ show their works. Photography, sculptures, paintings, and installations in situ. www.foundationbad.nl/ϟ-

PROJECTS

2026 Traces of Becoming The Hague, Netherlands Working with abstraction, I examine how experiences of displacement, cultural translation, and adaptation become embedded in memory and perception. Through processes of layering and transformation, my paintings reflect on identity as something continuously formed through encounters with people, places, and changing environments.

2024 Grin and bear it foundation b.a.d Rotterdam, Netherlands www.foundationbad.nl/grin-and-bear-it/

energy-ϟ/
Group

2025 Grin and bear it foundation B.a.d Rotterdam, Netherlands The project ‘grin and bear it’ delves into exploring the connection between smiling and sadness. The study references Carney Landis research on smiles, highlighting that not all smiles convey happiness. Video interviews brings visual expressions to the surface as well as multiple meanings of “the same” depending on the distinction of being, as well as outlining the complexity of understanding facial features. www.foundationbad.nl/grin-and-bear-it/
Duo

2024 Barcelona Indi Film Festival Barcelona, Spain Short film WHEN TOMETO BECOMES A PIECE OF CAKE www.madriff.org/barciff/
Group

2023 Larnaca Biennale EVOHK gallery Larnaca, Cyprus Short Film and Q&A Yaroslava Krutova Ukraine, 1993 WHEN TOMATO BECOMES A PIECE OF CAKE Video biennalelarnaca.com/event/homeawayfromhome-screenings/
Group

2023 The Grand Palace of Everyone NEST The Haage, Netherlands I don't think I'll stay here long nestruimte.nl/exhibition/the-grand-palace-of-everyone/
Duo

2022 I don't think I'll stay here long Saxyland, Unseen Amsterdam, Netherlands I don't think I'll stay here long unseenamsterdam.com/city-program
Duo

2022 Down There in the Cherry Garden Perdu Amsterdam, Netherlands Ewa’s performance was presented in Ukrainian together with her translator Sergej, accompanied by her paintings with a corresponding sound composition. perdu.nl/nl/r/on-what-binds-us-together/
Duo

Project delves into exploring the connection between smiling and sadness by meeting with individuals to uncover hidden emotions. The study references Carney Landis research on smiles, highlighting that not all smiles convey happiness. Participants will experiment with expressing various emotions through smiles, guessing others' emotions, and creating smile-related content.

2023 When tomato becomes a peace of cake The Hague, Netherlands youtu.be/T6WzrDTOEIY As millions of other Ukrainians, the artist experienced stress of changing the environment and living in uncertainty with strangers. Her work is full of complex stories about loneliness and equity, rights, and cultural cliches. There is a subtle mix of intonations: from humour to sorrow, and the hope of finding a place to call home. The work consists of two parts: the first is documenting the artist’s everyday life, and the second represents the artist’s internal world that exists in parallel with daily routine. Krutova performs as the main character, showing her story of being hosted by a Dutch family. She picks up on physical changes, such as not eating sugar because her hosts would not eat it, cooking different food, and wearing different clothes — in short, completely transforming her habits and self-representation, unavoidably entering an internal conflict. Sound is a key element in the piece, portraying the rapid changing of feelings. It also includes motives from Ukrainian traditional songs referring to the baggage the artist brings to her new context. The project addresses the questions: Is “home” a place or an emotional state? Can you find new home within a new society without being rooted in it? And will you loose yourself while searching for your new identity?

2022 I don't think I'll stay here long Nolimitartcastle Amsterdam, Netherlands youtu.be/n05cpttBf60 It is a complex narrative about loneliness and togetherness, kindness and cultural cliches, humor and sorrow, but also about support and a hope to have home again. This project was comissioned by Outsiderland, Amsterdam and supported by FOTODOK, Utrecht and is a collaboration between artists Yaroslava Krutova and Jana

Romanova.

2022 Down There in the Cherry Garden Perdu Amsterdam, Netherlands youtu.be/losmZreR4ik The title of the work is the first line of a Ukrainian song that has been passed through generations. It appears in a series of paintings, writings, and sound recordings of a diary that Yaroslava was writing since the beginning of the war. In this work, the diary is a method of the translation of consciousness, transition to the Ukrainian language as much as it aims for poetical documentation of the events of the more than 100 days of an ongoing war through the iconographies of protest and intimate moments. The different forms of expression are an attempt to express the movement of translation and share feelings while addressing the untranslatability of different aspects of a language.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

2025 Rotterdam, Netherlands Conducting research on the contradictory nature of a smile www.foundationbad.nl

COMMISSIONS

2022 Down There in the Cherry Garden Amsterdam, Netherlands Performance perdu.nl/en/

2022 I don't think I'll stay here long Nolimitartcastle Amsterdam, Netherlands This project was commissioned by Outsiderland, Amsterdam and supported by FOTODOK, Utrecht. nolimitsartcastle.nl/en/ finished

SALES/WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

2026 Birds Private Collection Bielefeld, Duitsland Combination of oil paint and acrylic on canvas 80*60*2

2026 Kigsday's crowd Private Collection Kiel, Duitsland Acryl on canvas 25*25

2025 Way Private Collection Amsterdam, Nederland Combination of oil paint and acrylic on canvas 30*40

2025 Vol Private Collection Amsterdam, Nederland Combination of oil paint and

PUBLICATIONS

2023 When Tomato Becomes a Piece of Cake Poster IVA Groep BV When Tomato Becomes a Piece of Cake Rotterdam, Netherlands

2022 Weawing with Words. Fragments of Fragile Conversations Book Growing Pains Weawing with Words. Fragments of Fragile Conversations Utrecht, Netherlands growingpains.nl/Makers

acrylic on canvas 50*50

2023 Streams of life Private Collection Heiloo, Nederland Acryl on canvas 20*20

AWARDS AND GRANTS

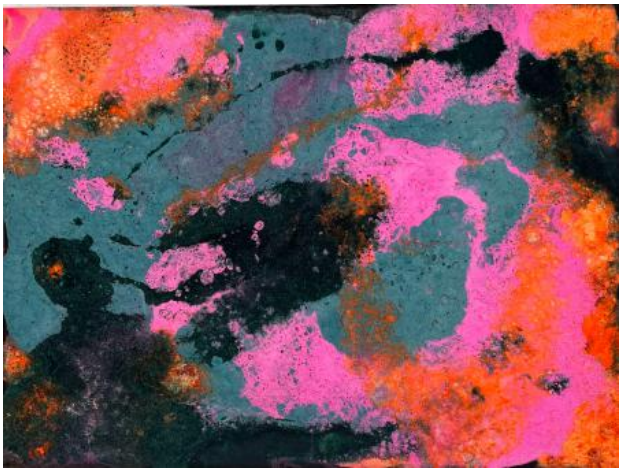
2022 When Tomato Becomes a Piece of Cake Nederlands Letterenfonds The Hague, Netherlands THE SUPPORT FUND IS ADMINISTERED BY THE DUTCH FOUNDATION FOR LITERATURE, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE OTHER DUTCH NATIONAL CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS (THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES FUND NL, THE MONDRIAAN FUND, THE NETHERLANDS FILM FUND, THE PERFORMING ART FUND NL AND THE CULTURAL PARTICIPATION FUND).

SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2024 - 2024 "One Day Residency" event on Eiland von Brienenoord



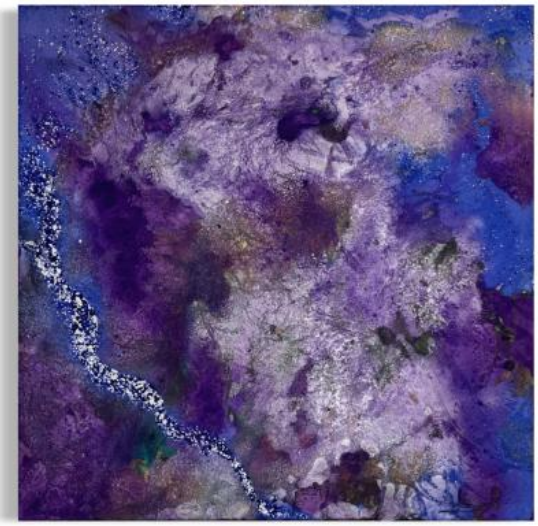
Peonies, 2026
Layover acryl on existed painting, 30*30*3



Untitled, 2026
Acrylic, pigment and mixed media on canvas, 40*30



Spirit, 2026
Layover acryl on existed painting, 60*80*2



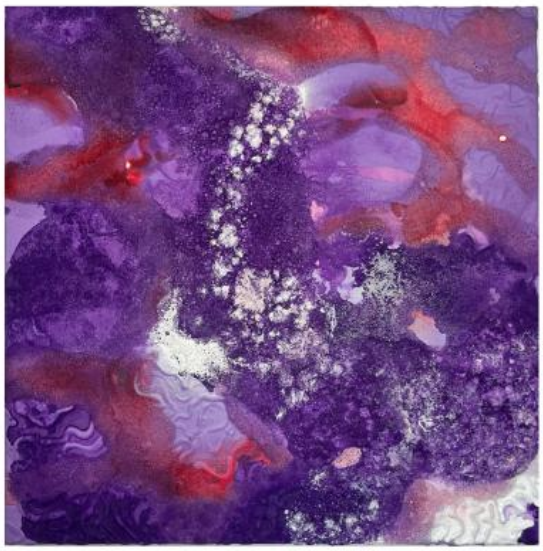
Trace, 2026
Acryl, 50*50*2



at night, 2026
Acrylic, pigment and mixed media on canvas, 50*50



, 2026
Layover acryl on existed painting, 50*70*2



Smile, 2026
Layover acryl on existed painting, 30*30*3



Tierra de Siena Tostada, 2026
Acryl, 80*60*2



Calmness, 2026
Acrylic, pigment and mixed media on canvas, 40*60



Untitled, 2026
Acrylic, pigment and mixed media on canvas, 40*60