



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coral Gables Museum Presents Ukrainian Exhibition Dedicated to Kyiv's Art Revival

"Painting In Excess: Kyiv's Art Revival, 1985 – 1993" showcases important works directly from Ukraine that can no longer return to their country

MIAMI, FL (Monday, May 9, 2022) – The **Coral Gables Museum** will be the first stop of a traveling exhibition titled **Painting in Excess: Kyiv's Art Revival, 1985 - 1993**, a series of Ukrainian avant-garde works revealing freedom during the transitional time when Ukraine came out from under the rule of the former Soviet Union. The current war in Ukraine adds a unique value to these works as they are expressions of a tumultuous time that nurtured the country's independence. The exhibition was on display at the Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University in New Jersey earlier this year, but many works from Ukrainian collections could not be returned because of the war. It comes to the Coral Gables Museum thanks to a grant from **The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**. An opening reception event will be held on Wednesday, May 18, and the exhibition will be on view from May 19 through October 30, 2022.

The exhibition studies inventive new art styles by non-conformist Ukrainian artists reacting to the difficult period of *perestroika* (restructuring) before the collapse of the Soviet Union. Their artwork went against the style of Socialist Realism that the Soviet government was imposing on artists at the time. More than 60 works of art, all by artists from Kyiv, are striking in color and size as they embrace a rediscovered history with the birth of independence following economic scarcity and ecological calamity. Radical changes had taken hold of the region in addition to the devastation caused by the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, meaning artists could at last express themselves more freely in superfluous artistry.

"The exhibition showcases Ukraine's resilience and determination through dramatic visualizations of freedom and independence," said **Coral Gables Museum's Chief Curator Yuni Villalonga**. "Considering recent events, it's a powerful, intimate, and emotional window into the hearts of Ukrainians."

While the exhibition captures a chaotic period, the artists took daring and completely novel approaches to their creations which vary in scale including wall-sized pieces. The international collection in *Painting in Excess* unveils a period of enlightenment and education explored by leading and well-known Ukrainian artists.

"This exhibition provides an important opportunity to discuss the political and cultural background of Ukraine in relation to the current war. These works show the country's indomitable spirit and resistance in the face of foreign occupation," said **Coral Gables Museum's Executive Director Elvis Fuentes**.

WHAT: *Painting In Excess: Kyiv's Art Revival, 1985 - 1993*

WHEN: Opening Reception: May 18; VIP 5 – 7 p.m. and general public 7 – 9 p.m.
On view: May 19 – October 30, 2022

WHERE: Coral Gables Museum
285 Aragon Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33134
*The exhibition also marks the opening of a new entrance to the museum from Salzedo Street.

RSVP: Press RSVPs for the opening reception should be emailed to Marianna La Riva at marianna@jwipr.com.

Hours: Monday – Friday: 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday: 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Museum admission: Admission is \$12 for adults, \$8 for students/seniors, and \$5 for children (7-12). Museum members, children 6 and under as well as military families enjoy free entry. All proceeds from the exhibition will go to relief efforts in Ukraine, specifically to the [Razom for Ukraine](#) organization which works to support the arts and unlock the potential of Ukraine.

Painting in Excess: Kyiv's Art Revival, 1985-1993. Organized by Olena Martynyuk, PhD, Rutgers University, Guest Research Curator, with assistance from Julia Tulovsky, PhD, Curator of Russian and Soviet Nonconformist Art at the Zimmerli Art Museum. The exhibition was made possible by the Avenir Foundation Endowment Fund and the Dodge Charitable Trust–Nancy Ruyle Dodge, Trustee, with the assistance of the Abramovych Foundation and Tymofieiev Foundation and with the additional support by the Ukrainian Institute in Kyiv. Its presentation at the Coral Gables Museum is sponsored by a generous grant from The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation with additional support from Allen & June Morris, and Carol & Vincent Damian.

Additionally, stay tuned for news about further programming relating to the exhibition.

For more information about Coral Gables Museum, visit CoralGablesMuseum.org call, 305-603-8067, or follow [@CoralGablesMuseum](https://www.instagram.com/CoralGablesMuseum) on Instagram.

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About Coral Gables Museum

The Coral Gables Museum Corp. is a publicly funded, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Its mission is to foster an appreciation for the civic arts by investigating and exploring the history of architecture, urban and environmental design, and public art. Through exhibitions, publications, tours, and other educational and public programs, the museum seeks to educate a broad audience, including children, families, and community members, as well as local, regional, national, and international visitors.

About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

As social investors, Knight Foundation supports democracy in America by funding free expression and journalism, arts and culture in the community, research in areas of media and democracy, and in the success of American cities and towns where John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. Learn more at kf.org and follow [@knightfdn](https://www.instagram.com/knightfdn) on social media.

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