

“Slava Ukraini!” — the April issue of *Vogue Polska* with a portfolio of Ukrainian artists and two different cover pages

The April issue of *Vogue Polska* comes with two different cover pages. The first one was designed by Małgorzata Mirga-Tas, who will represent Poland at this year’s Venice Biennale, while the second one was created by Yelena Yemchuk, an artist from Ukraine. We decided to devote the latest edition of our magazine to young Ukrainian artists. “Those unique works convey an avalanche of emotions, with immense power and hope that this nightmare is bound to end soon”, writes Ina Lekiewicz, our Editor-In-Chief, in her editorial.

“I could not imagine that this issue might have a regular cover page. We decided to offer the space typically reserved for the cover shoot to Ukrainian artists”, writes Ina Lekiewicz, the Editor-In-Chief, in her editorial for the April issue of *Vogue Polska*. The first of the two cover pages was designed by Yelena Yemchuk, a Ukrainian fashion photographer and painter, who have been using certain themes originating from the Ukrainian culture since the beginning of her creative work. “*We have been living in the United States for many years, but we still feel very close to our homeland. My mom cried all day long, my dad watched the news all the time and I was losing my mind worrying and calling my friends. [...] All that is happening, is beyond my imagination. Ukraine is present in my photos, in my videos, in my paintings; it is permanently engraved in my DNA. I am still this curious little girl from Kyiv*”, says the artist in her interview with Karolina Sulej. She moved to the United States with her parents in 1981, but she is far from American cultural influences. “*My identity is rooted in Slavic melancholy, like in Tarkovsky’s movies. I also adore everything that is grotesque, like in folk tales*”, says Yelena.

We also asked a number of other young artists to contribute to the new issue of our magazine, including Yulia Krivich, Ivan Grabko, Petro Bevza and Masha Reva. Their art is full of power and hope that this nightmare is bound to end soon.

The second cover page of the April issue of *Vogue Polska* is a work of Małgorzata Mirga-Tas, an artist representing Poland at this year’s Venice Biennale. Her large-format tapestries, which will be displayed on the walls of the Polish pavilion in May, were created with the help of seamstresses from Podhale in a former Imperial Hotel in Zakopane. Mirga-Tas portrays women important both for her and the Romani community. In her paintings, she includes some items and clothes belonging to them. Among 36 women portrayed at the “*Re-enchanting the World*” exhibition, there is her mother, her sister, her aunts, as well as Papusza, a famous poet writing in the Romani language. “*The author is important. The Romani have been portrayed by the non-Romani for centuries, but we lacked an inside perspective, not encumbered with stereotypes*”, says the artist in her interview with Hanna Rydlewska, telling a story of her grandmother, Józefa Mirga-Tas. Asked about the importance of feminine themes in her art, the artist answers: “*In the Romani communities, women are the driving force. That’s how I see it, maybe because of my own family history or because of what my grandmother was like. My mom is also a strong woman, as are my aunts. This is just who the Mirga women are*”.

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