



Ukraine Crisis

Books for the children of war

Olha Kupriian is a writer and editor on children's books. With the help of the MakersXchange Ukrainian Artists & Creatives Support Program she was able to start working on her new novel.

Key Takeaways

About MakersXchange

MAX (Makers' eXchange) project is a pilot policy project, co-funded by the European Union, that aims to define and test policies and actions supporting the mobility and exchanges of experience between the cultural and creative industries, creative hubs, maker-spaces, fab-labs and formal and non-formal learning and skills development systems in a cross-sectoral way and embed makers' mobility schemes for skills development and inclusion into mainstream CCIs support programmes, policies and ecosystems across Europe.



MAKERSXCHANGE

The story behind

Olha is a writer and book editor of children's books with an experience of more than 10 years. In March after the war started in Ukraine she relocated together with her daughter to Poland. Currently she is working on a series of books targeted to teenagers, about their adaptation to emigration during the Russian-Ukrainian war.

Through their eyes

"I was provided with a grant by MAX – MakersXchange Ukrainian Artists & Creatives Grant & Support Program, which gave me the possibility to work on a text. In July – September I have been working on my newest novel The Lady in the Emigration (« »). An extract was

published in the Polish-Ukrainian journal Posestry. The Lady in the Emigration is a novel for teenagers. It is written in the form of three diaries of 14-year old girls from Ukraine, who escaped from Kyiv in the first days after February 24. One of them, Olya, left in Lviv with her mother, who has bipolar disorder. Instead of being a child, Olya takes care of her mother while her father protects the country in The Armed Forces of Ukraine. Two others, Sofia and Diana, emigrated to Kraków, Poland. Diana's mom couldn't leave Kyiv because of their disordered grandmother. Diana took her little brother with her. Now, instead of being a child, she should be like a mother to her 6-years-old brother. Sofia is stressed because of her elder brother, who works in The Territorial Defence Forces, in Kyiv. Her father volunteers as a host for those who lost their homes. Also, she experienced worldview changes, and she argued with her boyfriend, who stayed in Kyiv. During the period of July – September 2022, I wrote 20 pages of the novel and I continue working on it.”

More about Olha Kupriian

Work Experience 2013 – present editor of the children's reading support project “BaraBooka. Space of the Ukrainian children's book”, methodologist of the children's reading laboratory of the National Center “Small Academy of Sciences of Ukraine”.

National Literature Contests for Children

“Top BaraBooks”

“Critic's Rating”

“Espresso. Readers' choice”

“Nash Format” publishing house manuscript competition.

Author of 10 books for children and teenagers of various ages.

The novel “Lola's Diary” was awarded the “LitAccent of the Year 2018” award.

“I, Nina” (2019), in co-authorship with journalist Yanina Sokolova which received the BookForum Best Book Award 2020 in the “Modern Ukrainian Prose” category.

Residencies

“Borderlands” fund (Krasnogruda, Poland, 2022).

“International House of Writers and Translators” (Ventspils, Latvia, 2022).

“Krakow – UNESCO City of Literature” by KBF (Poland, 2022).

“Author’s House” (Zakynthos Island, Greece, 2020).

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Interviewee

Name

Olha Kupriian

Current location

Krakow, Poland

Professional field

Book writing, editing, literature



SOUL. STORY. YOU
BY IRYNA MYRONENKO