

Press Release, Berlin, November 29, 2022

## **Yevgenia Belorusets receives Schering Stiftung Special Award for Artistic Research**

Yevgenia Belorusets (\* 1980 in Kyiv) lives and works as a photographer and writer in Kyiv and Berlin. Her works are situated at the intersection of art, artistic research, literature, journalism, and social activism. For years, her artistic and literary practice has focused on the political situation in Ukraine. In 2013, she captured the Maidan Uprising in Kyiv in impressive black-and-white photographs. Between 2014 and 2019, she repeatedly traveled to eastern Ukraine to investigate and describe everyday life in times of war. Her research, her photographic works, and her writings have combined to form a unique style bringing together photography and text.

The Schering Stiftung presents Yevgenia Belorusets with the Special Award for Artistic Research, which is presented for the first time this year. It seeks to give special recognition to an artist whose work the jury of the 2022 Schering Stiftung Award for Artistic Research considers to be politically relevant. For the jury members, Belorusets' work is of outstanding importance in light of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and thus merits particular attention. The 14,000-euro Special Award is designed to support the artist-cum-author in her artistic and literary work, facilitate planned and future projects, and help make her work more widely known.

The jury explains its choice as follows:

"In the work of the Ukrainian photographer, journalist, and writer Yevgenia Belorusets, images and stories combine to form an inseparable unit. Since the start of the Russian assault on Eastern Ukraine in 2015, Belorusets has developed a literary-documentary approach bringing together photographic evidence and personal stories, own observations and social media commentary by others. The focus of her comprehensive research and sensitive observations, which also encompasses the situation in the Ukrainian capital since the Russian attacks on February 24, 2022, is on how the war seeps into the fabric of everyday life in Ukraine. With poignant perspicuity as well as empathetic discretion, Belorusets makes tangible the emotional reality of the people living in Ukraine."

The jury consisted of Krist Gruijthuijsen (Director, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin), Clara Herrmann (Head of Junge Akademie of the Akademie der Künste, Berlin), Charlotte Klonk (Professor of Art and New Media, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin; Member of the Foundation Council of the Schering Stiftung, Berlin), Nontsikelelo Mutiti (artist; Director of Graduate Studies in Graphic Design, Yale School of Art), and Sinthujan Varatharajah (scientist and essayist).

### **Yevgenia Belorusets**

In recent years, Belorusets has presented ambitious long-term photography projects. These include *Gogol Street 32* showing the residents of a communal apartment building in Kyiv during their daily activities in a slowly disintegrating environment, and *Victories of the Defeated*, for which she visited Ukrainian coal mines near the war zone in the eastern Ukrainian Donbas region between 2014 and 2016 to study the workers' lives against the background of the military conflict.



Yevgenia Belorusets has presented her works in solo exhibitions at daadgalerie in Berlin; PinchukArtCentre in Kyiv (as part of her nomination for the 2013 PinchukArtCentrePrize); the Museum of Literature in Tbilisi, Georgia; Literaturhaus Salzburg; and the Gasteig in Munich.

In addition, her works have been shown as part of group exhibitions at the EU Parliament in Brussels, the Reichstag in Berlin, the Bundeskunsthalle in Bonn, the 56th and 59th Venice Biennale, the Kyiv Biennial, and ZKM – Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe. She has received numerous awards and fellowships, including the Crossing Borders fellowship from the Robert-Bosch-Stiftung in cooperation with Literarisches Colloquium Berlin, a Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung scholarship for study at the Berlin University of the Arts, and the Joan Wakelin Bursary, which is offered by the British daily *The Guardian* and the Royal Photographic Society.

Her recent publications include the books *Anfang des Krieges* (Beginning of war; Matthes & Seitz, 2022), *Modern Animal* (Isolariii, 2021), and *Glückliche Fälle* (Happy cases; Matthes & Seitz, 2019).