



PRESS RELEASE

BOTANICAL MICROSPACE

Yevhenii Lytvynenko multidisciplinary artist & designer

Location: The Kudryavka Estate – Kyivhistorymuseum
9 Kudryavska Street, Kyiv

The concept of a city garden originated in the 19th century and has since become an integral part of harmonious urban living. Inspired by traditions from England and Europe, this idea significantly influenced art, architecture, and fashion. Throughout Kyiv's history, various gardens—monastic, parks, and squares—served as places of restoration, inspiration, and connection to nature, supporting the cultivation of valuable plants and cultural greenery. Over time, this tradition expanded to include notable sites such as the Krister Garden, Fomina Botanical Garden, Hryshko Botanical Garden, Merchant's Gathering Garden, Meringa Estate, Sirets Dendropark, Volodymyrska Hill, Tsarsky Garden, Shevchenko Park, Zolotoverhyi Square, Rose Valley, Anosiv Garden, and Tershenko Estate Greenhouse. These spaces became gifts to the city, fostering its integration with the natural environment and inspiring generations.

A garden is a microcosm, a human-made landscape shaped by individual imagination but continuously enhanced by nature's physical processes, bringing it to life. Observing this miniature universe reveals a unique ecosystem: bees, butterflies, grasshoppers, dragonflies—create a lively, self-sufficient environment. Every plant, tree, vegetable—pumpkins, zucchinis, cabbage, carrots, eggplants, and fruits—forms a lush, vibrant jungle that nurtures new life each year.

The exhibition features paper appliqué art created with gouache, forming multilayered compositions. These works captivate with vivid colors and textured depth, revealing small scenes of nature—bees landing on flowers, pollen gatherers, tiny water circles, and insects flying from flower to flower—evoking theatrical moments that unfold before the viewer's eyes.

Additionally, textile prints in various techniques highlight stylized botanical motifs, used in furniture and fashion embroidery. This approach echoes the decorative use of plant imagery from the 18th century, which is experiencing a modern return. The exhibition also showcases upcycled pieces—repurpose

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Yevhenii Litvinenko (b. 1987, Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Kyiv, Ukraine. His practice encompasses appliqué, painting, and graphic work. He works primarily with paper cut-outs painted in gouache, watercolor, and ink, creating compositions that highlight the organic beauty of nature. Litvinenko is best known for his "*Botanical Microspace*" series, distinguished by its vivid color palette and refined plant-like silhouettes.

Litvinenko's work draws inspiration from the natural world, characterized by ornamental, flattened forms and simplified organic shapes. His practice includes spontaneous, emotionally driven pieces created in single sessions, later refined in detail. Important series include *Botanical Gardens*, a pivotal project in his development, and a watercolor series capturing delicate natural events such as rainfall, ripples on water, snow, and waves.

Yevhenii Litvinenko has participated in numerous international exhibitions, including *iSaloni* in Milan, *Maison & Objets* in Paris, *Decorex* in London, *Boutique Design* in New York, *Zurich Design Weeks*, and *I am u are* in Los Angeles. His works are held in various private collections both in Ukraine and abroad, and in the collection of the Ivan Franko National Academic Drama Theatre in Kyiv.