



EXHIBITION STATEMENT

Yevhenii Lytvynenko
Multidisciplinary Artist and Designer

Location: Museum of the Ukrainian Diaspora
Kyiv, Ukraine, 40B Kniaziv Ostrozkykh St.

HARD LUX! is a personal art project reflecting on industrial life, physical labor, and generational migration through the artist's own experience and memory. The exhibition is rooted in years of observing factory spaces — carpentry workshops, welding shops, and foundries — where labor becomes both the foundation of society and a source of exhaustion. Growing up between the industrial cities of Kryvyi Rih, Zelenodolsk, and Mariupol, the artist developed a visual language shaped by manual work, social instability, and the ongoing need to preserve creativity under difficult conditions.

The project explores how different political and economic systems — from industrial socialism to contemporary capitalism — often reduce human talent to survival labor. At its center are people with creative and intellectual potential: engineers, musicians, teachers, architects, and artists whose abilities remain unused while they work physically demanding and low-paid jobs. Through images connected to industrial environments and everyday labor, the exhibition reflects on repeating social patterns in which entire lives are spent supporting systems of wealth and inequality. The title *HARD LUX!* points to the contrast between the comfort of some and the physical burden carried by others.

Migration is another key layer of the project. The exhibition follows several generations of one family, from unrealized dreams of leaving abroad to contemporary migration across Europe. Personal history becomes part of a wider social experience shared by many families in Eastern Europe. Combining industrial aesthetics with emotional memory and documentary observation, the project creates space for reflection on labor, displacement, dignity, and the search for personal freedom.

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 & Objet* 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, Kyiv National Art Gallery

Brief description

HARD LUX! is a project about industrial life, physical labor, and generational migration. Through images of factory spaces and working environments, the artist reflects on the contrast between human exhaustion and systems of wealth and inequality. Drawing from personal experience in the industrial cities of Ukraine, the project explores labor, displacement, social vulnerability, and the search for freedom and dignity.