

RAW & WET. RED BOOK

PRESS RELEASE

Yevhenii Lytvynenko multidisciplinary artist & designer

Location: National Museum 'Kyiv Art Gallery'
Kyiv, Ukraine

The exhibition "Raw & Wet. Red Book" explores the interconnectedness of the natural world and human responsibility. It presents the idea of all living beings as parts of a single biotechnical system, where each species plays a specific role. Extinct species often disappear unnoticed, akin to melting watercolor paint. Had preservation been as simple as pressing Command (⌘) + S or Ctrl + S, the outcome might have been different.

In reality, safeguarding these species proves much more complex. This project is dedicated to the endangered species listed in the Red Data Book. It employs techniques such as wet watercolor with additions of salt, glycerin, bile, or gum arabic, depending on the desired texture and effect. Overlaid with ultraviolet paint, the artworks glow in the dark, creating a distinctive fluorescent effect. The process requires skill and speed, as much depends on the quick drying of the paper and chemical reactions.

The primary goal of this initiative is to draw attention to the fragile, extraordinary world of nature—one that is rapidly disappearing and may only be remembered through these visual records.

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.