

# Serg Zakharov



**Date and Place of Birth** – February 27, 1967, Donetsk, Ukraine

## Education

1979-1983 – Art School for Children in Donetsk, Ukraine

1983-1987 – Art College in Donetsk, Ukraine

1985-1987 – Classes in Igor Makarenko Art Studio, Ukraine

1992-1995 – Sloviansk Institute of Business and Law, Ukraine,  
Degree in Marketing and Advertising

2003-2004 – Architecture Faculty, Makiivka Institute of Engineering  
and Construction, Ukraine

## Activity

I am engaged in painting and drawing as well as interior and furniture design. In the summer of 2014, I created the Myrzilka Art Group. Under this group, I put up my street art installations mocking the pro-Russian terrorists of the “Donetsk People’s Republic” in occupied Donetsk. I posted the photos of these works on the Internet in order to spread information as wide as possible. Unfortunately, soon after I was tracked down and captured. I was beaten and tortured and went through a few mock shootings where my life was threatened at gunpoint. The events and experience of those days were rendered in drawings and edited into the graphic novel “The Hole.” The book was presented at the annual Frankfurt Book Fair in Germany in 2016 as well as at the International Arsenal Book Festival at Mystetskyi Arsenal in Kyiv, Ukraine the same year. Now I am working on the new edition of this book.

[https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2015/sep/15/ukraines-banksy-imprisoned-donetsk-pro-russian-rebels-in-pictures?CMP=share\\_btn\\_fb](https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2015/sep/15/ukraines-banksy-imprisoned-donetsk-pro-russian-rebels-in-pictures?CMP=share_btn_fb)

After my exile to Kyiv, I worked in collaboration with the Donetsk Art Fund IZOLYATSIA, Platform for Cultural Initiatives in Kyiv.

Together with the IZOLYATSIA Art Fund my installation-performance “House of Cards” was presented at Palais de Tokyo in Paris, France in December 2014.

At the beginning of 2015 the “House of Cards” was demonstrated in eastern cities of Ukraine (Mariupol, Sloviansk, and Kramatorsk) as well as at the International Arsenal Book Festival at Mystetskyi Arsenal in Kyiv, Ukraine.

The “House of Cards” was also demonstrated at the DOX Centre for Contemporary Art in Prague, the Czech Republic in June 2015.

In August 2015 “House of Cards” was shown during the annual Augsburg Peace Festival in Germany.

In September 2015 the exhibit took part in the 3rd Eastern Partnership Culture Congress in Lviv, Ukraine. It was exhibited at the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Berlin, Germany in January 2016 as well as at the Tabacka Kulturfabrik in Kosice, Slovakia in April 2016.

<http://www.bild.de/politik/ausland/ukraine-konflikt/folterknast-ukraine-44244486.bild.html>

Another project of mine the “Mosaic Picture” was presented at Sakharov Center during the annual festival of protest art “Muse of Rebels” in Moscow, Russia in May 2015.

My Donetsk street artwork titled “Just Do It” was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place according to the year-end result by the Center for Research in Sociology of Contemporary Art. Moscow – Jerusalem in November 2014.

I took part in the mayoral election of Mariupol as an Art Happening following the ideas of the American Allan Kaprow of performance art and was registered as one of the candidates for the position of mayor during the elections of October and November 2015. It was an artistic action to show new ways for municipal responsibility and city development towards its citizens. The exhibition included “performing”

in the ruins of an ancient synagogue as well as posting street artworks and other events with the involvement of Mariupol citizens.

<http://izolyatsia.org/en/project/izolyatsia/zakharov-the-next-mayor-of-new-mariupol/>

The drawings from the book "The Hole" were exhibited at "Artisterium", the annual exhibition of modern art in Tbilisi, Georgia in November 2015 as well as at the art gallery 32 Vozdvizhenka ARTS HOUSE in Kyiv, Ukraine earlier in the Spring.

My installation «TERRACOINA» took part in the exhibition "Reconstruction of Memory" organized by IZOLYATSIA Art Fund in February 2016.

<http://izolyatsia.org/en/project/reconstruction-of-memory>

In October 2017 this installation was demonstrated in Prague in the center of contemporary art «DOX».

The series of my paintings were exhibited at the group project "Unknown" at the National Academy of Arts of Ukraine, MODERN ART RESEARCH INSTITUTE in Kyiv, Ukraine during May and June of 2016 as well as at Yermilov Centre in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

After the graphic novel "The Hole" was published a great number of presentations and lectures about the role of art in a non-violent resistance have been carried out as well as exhibitions of drawings from the book.

Personal exhibition of drawings and paintings "The Hole, August 2014" are opened at The National Museum of the History of Ukraine in Kyiv from December 2016.

During 2016 I did the street art projects "Vezde(s)ushiy" and "Nirvana" in Kyiv as well as the project "Botanic Garden Eden".

I illustrated the book "100 days in captivity or call 911" and "President's Ghosts" by V.Makeev.

My illustrations have been published in Esquire Magazine, Ukraine.

In 2016 I organized an open group of artists «Ukrmakrosvesvit» with my friends. The group regularly holds exhibitions in its flat gallery.

In 2017 I created the images for the film about Ukraine titled "Huger for the Truth" by the French-Canadian director Andrew Tkach.

April-May 2019 - personal exhibition "Darkness, Chronicles of Inversion" at the National Museum of World War II in Kyiv.

August 2019 - participation in the exhibition within the framework of the international forum "Baltik Glory" - Loviisa, Finland

September-December 2019 - participation in the art residence "On the Front Line", Stanytsia Luhanska, and exhibitions of works from the residence - Vinnytsia, Lithuanian Embassy, Kyiv, Museum of Prominent Figures of Ukraine, Kyiv, Tadzio Gallery, Kyiv

September 2019 - participation in the exhibition "Diffusion" in the framework of the international residence, Mariupol, Ukraine.

October 2019 - participation in the group exhibition "Dreams of a Garden" – Kyiv

January 2020 - personal exhibition, "Bukitoria" Kyiv

February 2020 - personal exhibition, Tadzio Gallery, Kyiv

March 2019, March 2020 - participation in the joint exhibition "Week of Ukrainian Art", Bruges, Belgium

August 2020 – participant of the artistic residence in Starobilsk, Ukraine – "Research Art Residence - Aura of the City"

I am acting consul of the Republic of Uzhupis in Donetsk (in exile).