

The Art of MFF



# INAUGURAL MASTERPIECES

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UNIQUE ARTWORKS CREATED FROM THE "ASHES OF WAR" BY  
**SERGEY MELNIKOFF**  
ARE BOLDLY COMPARED BY LEADING ART CRITICS  
TO THE MASTERPIECES OF THE RENAISSANCE



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UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF



STATE BORDER GUARD SERVICE OF UKRAINE



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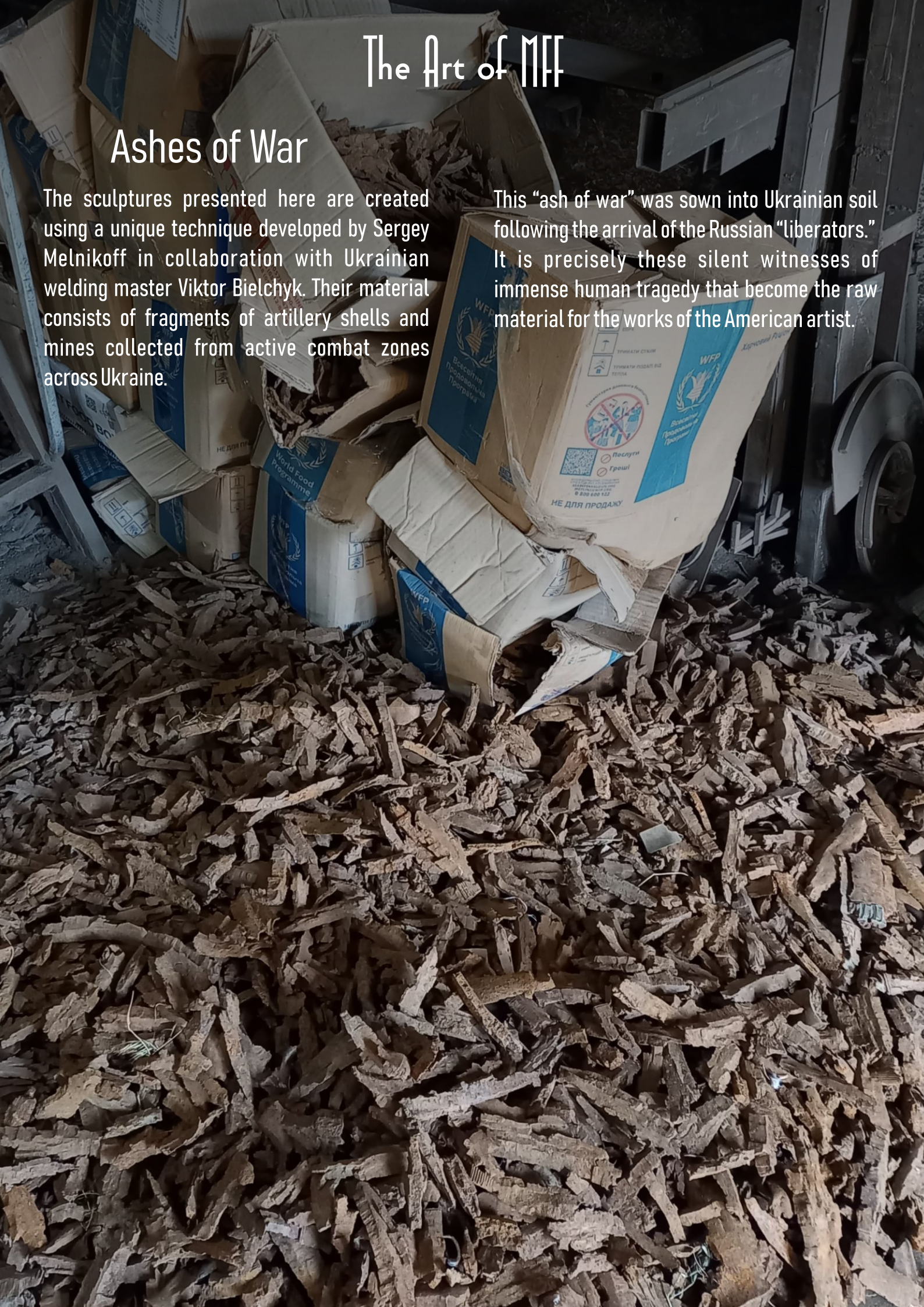


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## Ashes of War

The sculptures presented here are created using a unique technique developed by Sergey Melnikoff in collaboration with Ukrainian welding master Viktor Bielchyk. Their material consists of fragments of artillery shells and mines collected from active combat zones across Ukraine.

This “ash of war” was sown into Ukrainian soil following the arrival of the Russian “liberators.” It is precisely these silent witnesses of immense human tragedy that become the raw material for the works of the American artist.





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## The Cross of Peace

This four-meter-high cross, mounted on an anti-tank barrier made from railway rails produced at the Azovstal plant in Mariupol, is constructed from metal salvaged from destroyed residential buildings in Kharkiv and Odesa—places where entire families were killed by Russian missile strikes. For the first time since 1054—the year of the Great Schism—the ends of the cross are designed in the styles of Catholicism, Orthodoxy, and Protestantism.

At the heart of the “Cross of Peace” installation is a crucified figure of Christ composed of 20,000 tiny fragments of artillery shells and mines, gilded in 999.9 fine gold.

Pope Francis, moved by this work of art, called on all Christians worldwide to celebrate Easter on the same day.





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## For the First Time in the History of Art

The monumental art installation “The Cross of Peace,” featuring a golden crucifix, is traveling through dozens of cities and towns across Ukraine as part of a global presentation of this unique creation.

For the first time ever, a one-ton sculpture is being exhibited in the central squares of cities under daily missile and drone attacks—a bold cultural mission unfolding amid an ongoing war.

This unprecedented journey stands as a testament to the power of art to inspire peace, resilience, and unity, even in the darkest of times.





## The Holy Mandylion

This sculptural representation of the biblical parable “The Holy Mandylion” is created from thousands of fragments of artillery shells and mines.

The base beneath the face of Christ is shaped like a stylized cloth—the towel with which Jesus wiped His face on the way to Golgotha—and is made from the metal of 30mm shell casings.

The “towel” is gilded with 999.9 fine gold.

**Dimensions:** 70×60 cm (27.5×23.6 inches)





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## Ukrainian Phoenix

This striking sculpture is crafted from artillery shell fragments collected across Ukraine. To form the wings and tail of the mythical bird, the artist selected shard-like elements reminiscent of feathers, imbuing the Phoenix with powerful symbolism of rebirth and resilience.

At the sculpture's base lies a ruptured shell, from which the immortal bird appears to rise—a poignant representation of a nation ascending from the ashes of war. The piece will be finished with a 999.9 fine gold coating, applied through electroplating.





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## The Great Coat of Arms of Ukraine

A video by the National News Agency of Ukraine, "Ukrinform," documents the solemn consecration of the "Great Coat of Arms of Ukraine" sculpture, which took place on November 1, 2023, at St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Kyiv.

[Watch Ukrinform Video](#)

In central Kyiv, against a backdrop of destroyed Russian military equipment, the sculpture was photographed for the legendary "National Geographic" magazine.









## A Masterpiece of the Century for the Chechen People

This sculpture, representing the national emblem of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, was created from fragments of artillery shells and 5,000 small arms casings.

Sergey Melnikoff, together with Ukraine's third President, Viktor Yushchenko, presented this unique artwork to Prime Minister Akhmed Zakayev as a symbol of the Ukrainian people's deep gratitude for Chechnya's support in the fight against Russian aggression.





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In the photo: Prime Minister Akhmed Zakayev  
accepts the symbolic gift.  
Kyiv, February 28, 2024





## The Great Eagle of Albania

As an official gift to Albania, Sergey Melnikoff created a sculptural depiction of the majestic double-headed eagle, meticulously crafted from fragments of mines and shells.

This sculpture, echoing the form of the national emblem and aptly titled “The Splendid Eagle of Albania,” symbolizes the profound bond forged in wartime.

The work was created as part of the International Rehabilitation Center project for Ukrainian children in Albania — a sanctuary for those who lost limbs due to brutal Russian bombings.





## The Cross — Voice of the Land

Created in 2025 from fragments of artillery shells collected in Kherson and Mykolaiv, this cross embodies Ukraine's pain, dignity, and resilience.

Crafted in the Catholic tradition and coated in nickel, it transforms the metal of war into a symbol of hope and spiritual renewal.

Through it, the “voice of the land” speaks — remembering the fallen and believing in peace.

**Dimensions:** 155 × 100 cm (60 × 38 in)



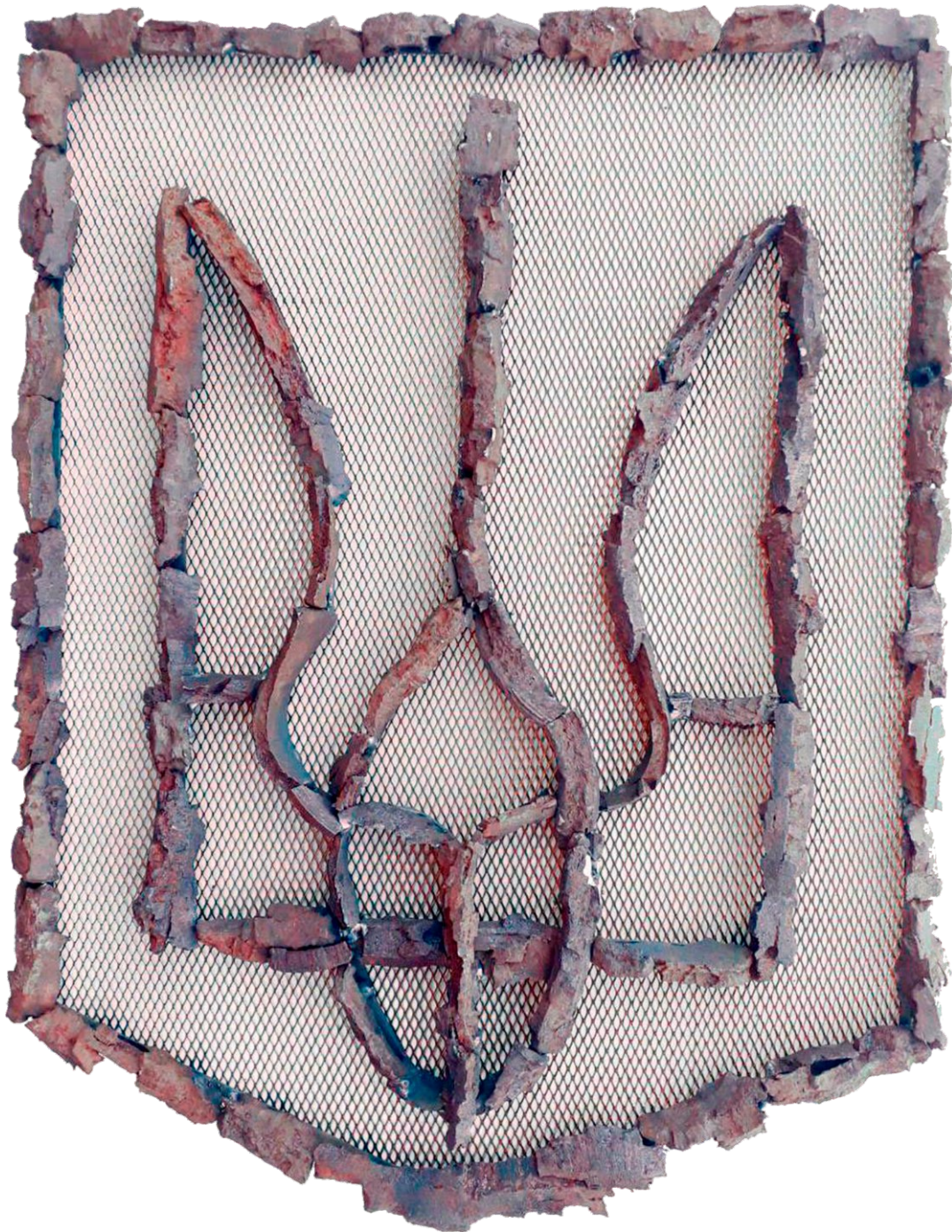


## The Small Coat of Arms of Ukraine

This unique version of the Small Coat of Arms of Ukraine, created from fragments of mines and shells, is presented as an official gift to sponsors who significantly contribute to the children's rehabilitation center project.

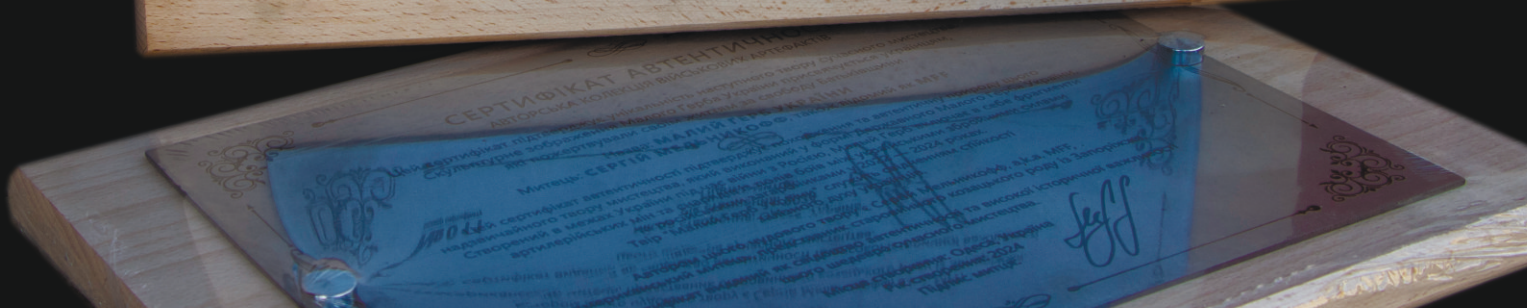
Each piece is one-of-a-kind, accompanied by a laser-engraved certificate of authenticity mounted on a base of fine wood.

One of these coats of arms was presented by the artist to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, as well as to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine.





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# A GIFT LIKE NO OTHER MELNIKOFF

## Who Is MFF?

**Sergey Melnikoff** — known as MFF — is a National Hero of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria for his personal contributions to the informational resistance against Russia.

He is a full cavalier of all grades of the Ukrainian Order of Saint Equal-to-the-Apostles Prince Volodymyr the Great and the recipient of numerous international honors.

A descendant of an ancient Ukrainian Cossack lineage, Melnikoff was a Soviet dissident and political prisoner who daringly escaped the USSR with his wife and infant daughter. Today, he is a celebrated American artist and a pioneer of revolutionary photographic techniques.

In 2014, alongside the legendary academician **Borys Paton**, he founded “The Soul of Ukraine,” an international charitable foundation.

Melnikoff is the only photographer in history whose works have been accepted as personal gifts by world figures such as U.S. President **George Bush**, Queen **Elizabeth II**, Pope **Francis I**, King **Birendra** of Nepal, the **14th Dalai Lama**, Pope **Benedict XVI**, and many others.

His public artistic face is His Holiness the **14th Dalai Lama**, Nobel Peace Prize laureate.



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He even persuaded Tajik President Emomali Rahmon to rename the second-highest peak in the Pamirs from “Korzhenevskaya” to “Ozodi Peak” (Freedom) in 2020.

Melnikoff's accolades affirm his status as one of the most highly decorated and influential artists of our time.



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# Mother Teresa

## International Rehabilitation Center for Ukrainian Children of War

Under Management of The Soul of Ukraine Foundation, Inc.,  
a US Division of the Soul of Ukraine International Charitable Foundation

## Message of Gratitude



[www.rehab.soulofukraine.foundation](http://www.rehab.soulofukraine.foundation)







**Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,**

For three long years, we have labored tirelessly—driven by one unwavering goal:  
to build a sanctuary in Albania, a place of healing and renewal for Ukrainian children whose lives  
have been shattered by the merciless war unleashed by fascist Russia.  
Today, I offer you not simply art, but sacred relics forged from sorrow and courage—unique creations  
born of destruction itself. I call them “Ashes of War,” crafted from artillery fragments, mortar  
casings, and the cold, lifeless metal of violence.  
Yet within these remnants, beauty has arisen.  
Each piece holds more than artistic expression—it holds the silence of a ruined home,  
the cry of a child, the tear of a mother, the heartbeat of a people who refuse to surrender.  
These are not merely sculptures. They are testaments. They are hope incarnate.  
They are love transformed by fire.  
Every cent from their sale will go toward realizing a dream: the Mother Teresa Center.  
A haven where wounded children may rediscover joy, restore their dignity,  
and learn to fly again on healing wings.  
Because of your compassion—because you believe in light amid darkness—I dare  
to hope this long—held vision is now within reach.  
From the depths of my heart, thank you for standing with us.

**Sergey Melnikoff**





© Sergey Melnikoff, a.k.a. MFF

Світлини Марії Універсалиук | Photo by Maria Universaliuk  
The Soul of Ukraine Foundation, Inc.

2025