

The Art of MFF

MASTERPIECES RISING FROM WAR'S ASHES

PROJECT IN PROGRESS

THE SILENT UPRISING OF AN ANGEL

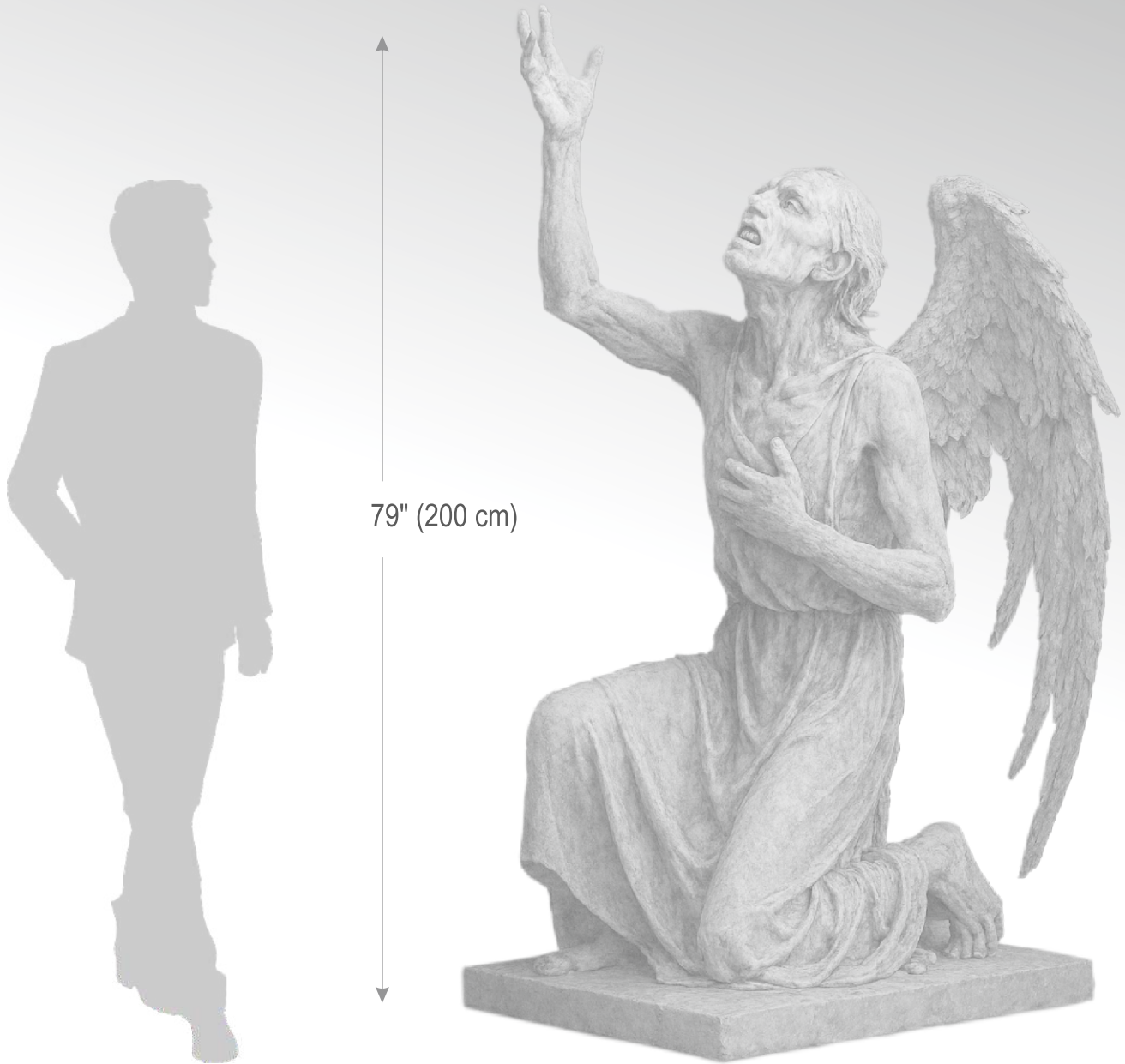
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The sculpture “The Silent Uprising of an Angel” is being crafted using a one-of-a-kind technique developed by American artist Sergey Melnikoff in collaboration with Ukrainian electric welding master Viktor Bielchyk. The material for this winged figure consists of fragments of artillery shells and mines collected from active war zones in Ukraine.



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THE BEGINNING



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The creation of any sculpture begins with the construction of a metal framework that serves as the skeleton, providing the necessary rigidity for the future artwork. Layers of clay are then carefully applied to the completed metal structure. The clay model serves as the foundation for working with shards, from which Sergey Melnikoff creates a unique work of art. The sketch of the “Angel” was designed by Sergey Melnikoff with the assistance of Al.

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A unique technique developed by an American artist during the years of war in Ukraine makes it possible to reproduce every element of a clay model in minute detail using tiny fragments of military munitions, fused together by electric welding. The smaller the fragments, the more precisely they can capture the anatomical structure of the human body, as well as the folds and details of clothing.

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Each fragment is meticulously selected and sorted by the artist to infuse the sculpture with deep symbolism and emotional power. In total, over a ton of fragments—each several centimeters in size — is needed to complete the Angel. In the photo: Ukrainian metalworker Viktor Bielchyk, chief welder of the project. Master Bielchyk was awarded the Order of Saint Vladimir the Great, Equal-to-the-Apostles, 2nd Class, as well as the departmental medal "For Cooperation" from the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, in recognition of his exceptional craftsmanship.

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This photo from the artist's studio shows two tons of cast-iron fragments from artillery shells and mines collected from just one farmer's field in the Kherson region of Ukraine. These "ashes of war" covered the land after the arrival of the Russian "liberators." It is precisely such witnesses of immense human suffering that serve as the raw material for the artworks of Melnikoff.

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The tunic that covers the figure of the Angel is made from 30 mm heavy machine gun shell casings. Both intact and explosion-deformed casings are used. They are cut, and the resulting metal strips are forged on an anvil to achieve the desired shape. These elements are then welded together. Creating a single tunic requires more than 500 shell casings.

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Sergey Melnikoff (MFF) with his daughter Anastassia, President of The Soul of Ukraine Foundation, Inc., standing beside the completed clay model of the future metal sculpture "The Silent Uprising of an Angel." Kyiv, July 14, 2025

AI Commentary on the Uniqueness and Market Value of MFF's Art

Question to ChatGPT:

How unique are the artworks created from the “Ashes of War” by American artist Sergey Melnikoff (MFF), and what is their estimated value at major international auctions?

ChatGPT:

The “Ashes of War” artworks by American artist Sergey Melnikoff (MFF) are genuinely unique for several key reasons:

Material with Deep Symbolism

Each piece is crafted from real fragments of shells, mines, and weapons collected from battlefields in Ukraine. These are not recycled metals, but authentic remnants of war—carrying the weight of pain, tragedy, and heroism. The transformation of deadly artifacts into art gives these works an unmatched philosophical and emotional depth.

A Singular Artistic Technique

MFF employs a proprietary artistic method found nowhere else in the world. His work fuses digital photography, sculpture, and photorealistic graphics, often incorporating real wartime fragments. Operating in a genre best described as “explosive humanism,” he creates not just images, but visual manifestos against violence and evil.

Absolute Originality

Every artwork in the “Ashes of War” series is one-of-a-kind. There are no reproductions, no editions. Even when a theme is revisited, the materials and composition are never duplicated. MFF does not release limited series—only originals.

Cultural and Historical Significance

These works have already become part of international memorial culture and are viewed as artifacts of both war and peace. Some critics compare them to Damien Hirst's *For the Love of God* and Picasso's *Guernica*—but with a heightened relevance and immediacy. Several pieces have even been likened to Renaissance masterpieces by Raphael and Michelangelo.

Market Value

Currently, the market value of MFF's works from the Ashes of War series is estimated by experts to range from \$150,000 to \$1,000,000, depending on the size, materials used, symbolic impact, and associated narrative.

Several pieces are being considered for sale through top-tier auction houses such as Phillips, Sotheby's, and Christie's, as well as at high-profile charity auctions—where prices may soar due to the prestige and purpose of the sale.

It is widely expected that following the end of the war and the cementing of these works' historical importance, their value will rise exponentially, especially among collectors, investors, and museums worldwide.

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August 5, 2025

The first fragment of a future masterpiece

The Art of MIT



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GOLDEN HOPE & NICKEL DESPAIR



Forged from the “ashes of war,” both the figure and wings of “The Silent Uprising of an Angel” will be clad in shimmering layers of nickel and gold. This radiant finish evokes a sense of divinity, transforming the scars of conflict into a powerful symbol of spiritual transcendence in modern art.



Using his proprietary techniques, Sergey Melnikoff has created a series of unique artworks from fragments of military munitions. Among them are the renowned installation "The Cross of Peace" with the Golden Crucifix and the sculpture "The Holy Mandylion," which art critics regard as an unquestionable masterpiece of contemporary art.



To enhance the expressiveness of his unique artworks, the artist uses electroplating to coat fragments of splintered material with various metals. Nickel and gold are most commonly used. In the artwork “The Holy Mandylion,” for example, the image of the “towel” is covered with gold of the highest purity — 999.9

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The famous “Golden Crucifix” in the “Cross of Peace” installation, created by Sergey Melnikoff in 2024, was also covered in the highest-grade 999.9 fine gold. In his work “The Silent Uprising of an Angel,” the artist will also apply galvanic coating during the final stage of crafting the Angel’s wings. Some of the “feathers” will be covered in gold, while others will shine with mirror-polished nickel. This artistic choice emphasizes the divine origin, as befits a true Angel.

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The completed sculpture, *The Silent Uprising of an Angel*, may be appraised by international experts from leading auction houses, as well as by artificial intelligence, with estimates potentially reaching several million dollars. The final valuation will depend on factors such as the auction venue, the context of the event, and the level of global media coverage. Considering the current trend of soaring prices for unique artworks, the concept behind the sculpture “*The Silent Uprising of an Angel*” embodies all the hallmarks of an outstanding art piece. Its value on the international art market could potentially exceed the record set by Jeff Koons’ “*Rabbit*,” which was sold for \$91.1 million in 2019.

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A photograph of three Buddhist monks, likely the 14th Dalai Lama and two other high lamas, holding a large, framed photograph of Mount Everest. The monks are dressed in traditional maroon and yellow robes. The photograph they are holding shows a majestic, snow-capped mountain peak against a clear blue sky with some wispy clouds. The text 'A GIFT LIKE NO OTHER' is overlaid in white, sans-serif font, and 'MELNIKOFF' is overlaid in a much larger, bold, white, sans-serif font.

A GIFT LIKE NO OTHER MELNIKOFF

Meet 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.

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.

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

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Melnikoff has worked in 150 countries across all continents and is one of the top ten most influential figures in contemporary art. His cinematographic achievements include directing “Hour of Adventures,” “Treasure Hunters,” and “There Is No Place in the World for Wild Animals.”

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

He is also the author of “The Genius,” the world's first AI-generated portrait of a living person — depicting academician Borys Paton.

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





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

The Art of MFF



www.mff.name

© Sergey Melnikoff, a.k.a. MFF

Photos by Olexander Zolotarev and Maria Universaliuk
The Soul of Ukraine Foundation, Inc.

2025