

## DRAGON DANCE THEATRE

*Exploring visual and performing arts since 1976*



Stop Bombing Ukraine

*A portfolio of Linoleum block prints by Sam Kerson*

Our portfolio of images concentrates on the first few months of the 2022, 2023 War in Ukraine. While the war was still shocking and surprising, before it moved in the direction of appalling and devastating. When we could still think that a resolution might be reached. After all everyone saw the risks of all-out-war and wise men and women would move to reach a peace agreement. We saw the images of soldiers lost at highly radioactive Chernobyl, obviously not realizing the danger they were in. Men with rockets and cannons were firing at each other around the largest nuclear reactor complex in Europe, *Zaporizhzhia*. Now we hear the belligerents are actually assuring each other that they will not use nuclear weapons, “Unless.....”.

February 8, 2023, there were 8,000,000 Ukrainians registered as Refugees according to UNHCR, that includes both East and West of Ukraine. The infrastructure has been wrecked in eastern parts of Ukraine and whole cities have been flattened. Many lives have been lost. And their generations are lost forever.

What can we do as artists? Let us look at the people who are calling for Peace. Pinchas Goldschmidt the Jewish Rabbi who fled Russia rather than endorse the war. Natalia Samsonova protests at the statue of Ukrainian Poet Lesya Ukrainka, placing flowers at the anti-war memorial hidden away in a neighborhood of Moscow. The old Russian graffiti man Vladimir Ovchinnikov writes anti-war slogans on the walls of his town, Borovsk, Russia. The women of Pussy Riot, Nadya Tolokonniko and company who have been speaking out on the nature of the Kremlin’s strategies, for some years, and who are in exile now, exhibiting their piece, *Putin’s Ashes* in Los Angeles.

February 2, 1943, 80 years ago, German armies surrendered to the Russians at Stalingrad, the Russian commissar of Stalingrad, incidentally was Nikita Khrushchev. As President Putin says, “Stalingrad was the last time Russia faced German tanks.”

Roger Waters spoke to the UN, Feb 8, 2023, calling for a total cease fire. The Ukraine and the American delegates suggested that Mr. Waters should keep strumming his guitar and leave the questions of War and Peace to the Security Council. Meanwhile the president of Ukraine, Mr. Zelenski, was in London in the morning and Paris in the evening looking for more arms; jets to provide air-cover for the tanks Ukraine has already been promised.

The ecological waste is appalling!!! The destruction of sentient beings, humans and others. There must be a solution. The sheer human suffering. We find it distressing that the US, Canada, NATO and London talk only of Weapons! Let’s speak of Peace.

Madrid, April 25, 2023 the President of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, at the beginning of his visit to Spain, criticized the Russian invasion of Ukraine, but regretted, that nobody talks about peace, in what he described as an "insane war". While Lula was speaking against the war in Portugal, far-right deputies booed him and his peace position. China actually proposes a Peace plan, *China’s Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis, published by the ministry of Foreign Affairs on February 24, 2023*. The Pope is also calling for Peace. Peace, Peace now. Meanwhile, the Finns joined NATO to protect their long border with Russia. We spent the summer of 2022 in Finland, talking about War and extinction of species. The Finns reminded us that they were at War with the Russians all too recently; 1940 the *Winter War*. This last summer the Finns, we were working with, spoke of the *Winter War*, passionately, as if they had experienced it themselves.

Peace plans have been proposed by Italy, Turkey, China, Brazil. Here we quote Code Pink, US peace activists; *“The war in Ukraine is a disaster for the people of Ukraine and a terrible threat to us all, including increasing the danger of nuclear war. We oppose the Russian invasion while recognizing that the expansion of NATO and the aggressive approach of Western nations have helped cause the crisis, and we demand an end to NATO expansion. We also oppose sanctions that will harm ordinary Russians and call on all countries to welcome refugees fleeing the war. Join us as we build a massive, unified response with peace-loving people around the world to say, No to War in Ukraine; Yes to Negotiations and Peace.”*

The 28 images included in our, *Stop Bombing Ukraine*, are made in the spirit of Peace.

We acknowledge the violence and suffering that has happened and we call for the end to all aggression. We also call for the active creation of peace. I am old enough to remember the Cuban missile Crisis. I assure you, no one thought it was acceptable for the Russians to place Missiles in Cuba. Nor was the Kennedy' Administration going to tolerate the presence of Russian ballistic Missiles 90 miles from Miami.

Peace Now. Stop Bombing Ukraine.  
*Sam and Katah*



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