

# **Stand Up**

Visual Art Survey Portfolio

Works by:

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2014

## **Stand Up**

Ukraine's borders have long been fought over and moved – as far back as and as most recently as this year. Having maternal grandparents who emigrated in 1949 and having visited the country twice, the horrific place Ukraine finds itself in today hits close to the heart.

The protest in fall of 2013 began after a move by the now ousted government to not join the European Union. The issues will have a profound impact on the economy, politics and culture in Ukraine.

The majority of pieces in this portfolio are meant to pay respect to Ukraine's heroes of past and present, as well as give tribute to my Ukrainian heritage.

## Protestors

While doing research for the portfolio, I came across a photo that really grabbed my attention. I'm not sure what they are looking at, but the feeling in their eyes is that of hope, fear, wonder and pride.

*Medium: Scratch art*



## **Cossack**

Cossacks are warriors that originate as far back as the 16th and 17th centuries. They were a democratic group of people that fought for freedom and resisted external control. For a portable art piece, it made sense to create something that easily transportable and light hearted. A happy little cossack seemed quite appropriate!

*Medium: Oven modelling clay*



## Leninfall

In December 2013, protestors toppled one of the remaining statues of Lenin in Kyiv. When this story first broke, many people were shocked that this statue was still in existence. Following Ukraine's independence in 1991, the majority of Lenin statues in Ukraine were either demolished or “beheaded” and molded into statues of Ukrainian poets and poetesses.

The toppling of this statue was a sign to me that if nothing else good comes out of the issues in Ukraine, there is a glimmer of unity and independence.

*Medium: Oven modeling clay*

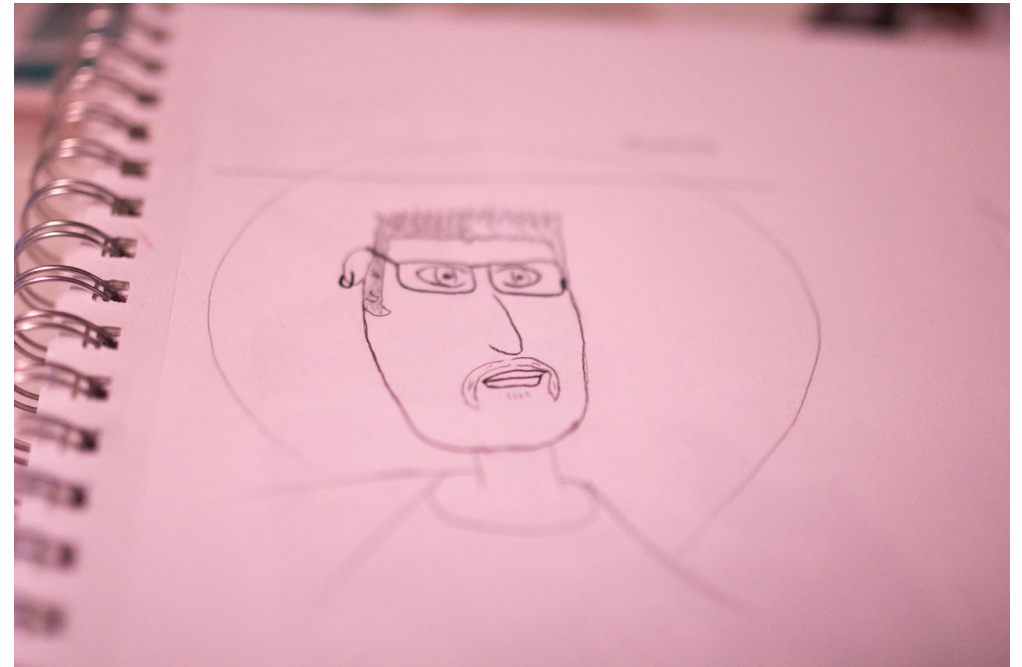




## Mykhailo

When I am with Ukrainian friends, or family I often go by Михайло (Myk-hai-lo). This coin plays tribute to my English and Ukrainian profiles with Michael on one side of the coin and Михайло on the other.

*Medium: Oven modelling clay.*



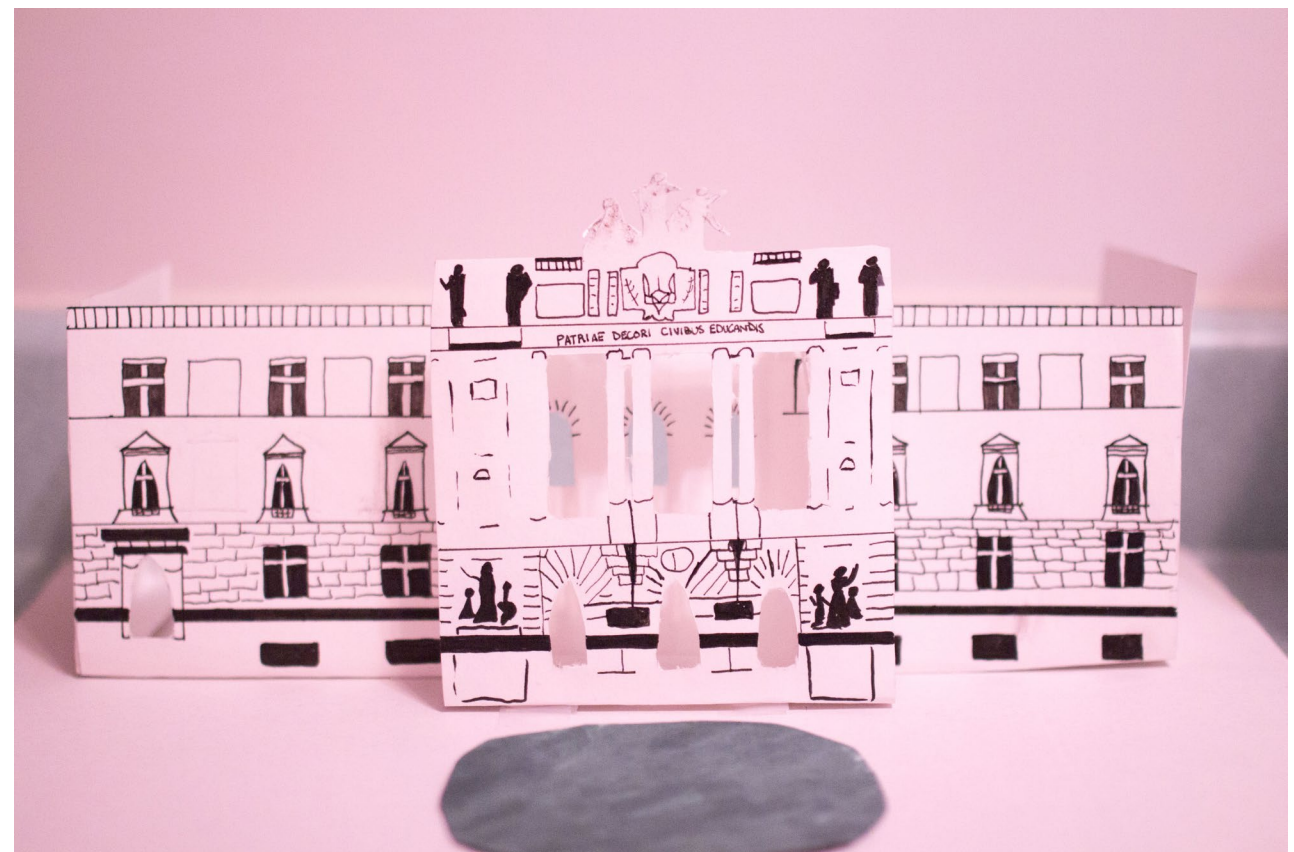
## University

Ivan Franko University in Lviv is one of the oldest schools in not only Ukraine, but in all of Europe. Founded in the 1600's the university has remained open through wars, and various governments. The school is named after Ivan Franko, a poet and founder of nationalist movement in Western Ukraine. To this day his work still has a an effect on literary and political thought in Ukraine.

I first saw the university in 2010 and fell in love immediately. To me what appealed was the symmetry, the vanilla-yellow painted brick, and the overall shape of the building.

Across from the university is one of the most incredible parks I have ever been in. When I was determining what to model for my architectural piece, the university was the logical choice.

*Medium: Construction paper; pen.*



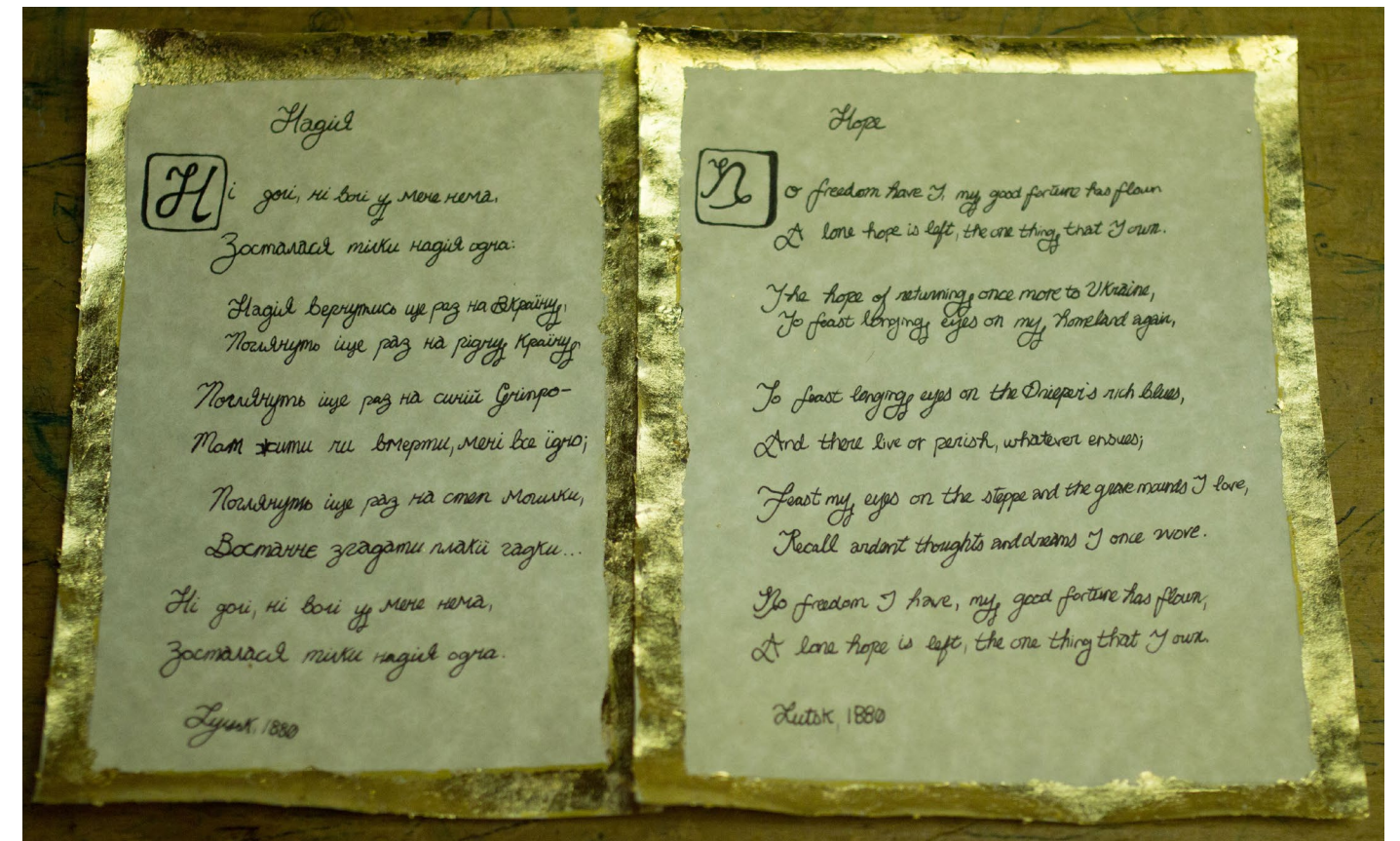


## Hope

Lesya Ukrainka is an influential Ukrainian poetess from late 1800's. The majority of her poems revolve around Ukraine's freedom and independence. Her first ever poem was one I chose to write for my Illuminated manuscript is called "Hope".

"Hope" was written about Ukrainka's aunt who was arrested and exiled after taking part in a movement against the Russian Tsar.

Medium: Parchment paper and gold leaf.





## Pride

As discussed earlier what is happening in Ukraine has to do with the economy and political pressure from Russia. Since the sake of Ukraine's culture and identity is being threatened, even ordinary Ukrainians are showing pride in their country and their history.

*Medium: Linocut and rice paper with acrylic.*



## **Bleeding heart**

Since blood has been shed during the protests, it seemed fitting to have a more graphic piece in my portfolio. Bleeding heart is a monoprint in (almost) the shape of Ukraine with blue and yellow representing the flag and red paying respect to those who have given their hearts and souls to helping Ukraine achieve peace.

*Medium: Acrylic on rice paper*





## Steppes

One of the most beautiful parts about Ukraine are the endless golden fields. Steppes is a pointillist painting portraying a young man gazing proudly over the field hoping for a better future. This ended up being one of my favourite pieces to work on.

*Medium: Acrylic on canvas.*

