

05 June 2009

Kyiv

## «Steppes of Dreamers»: Ukraine opened its Pavilion at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Venice Biennale

The PinchukArtCentre and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ukraine presented the ***Steppes of Dreamers*** art-project at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Venice Biennale. This Ukrainian exhibition became a major contribution to this year's Venice Biennale entitled *Making Worlds*. The exhibition was created by Ilyya Chichkan (Ukraine) and Mihara Yasuhiro (Japan). Mihara Yasuhiro's partner artist in the project became Ogata Kinichi, who helped Mihara to implement his ideas.

The project emphasises the process of creation and expands the boundaries of art and collaboration. The Commissioner is Peter Doroshenko, PinchukArtCentre's artistic director. The curator of the Ukrainian Pavilion is Wladimir Klitschko. The partner of the Ukrainian Pavilion at the 53<sup>d</sup> Venice Biennale is the international brand *Nemiroff*.

The official opening of the Ukrainian Pavilion located in the Palazzo Papadopoli took place on 4 June. The ceremony was attended by over a hundred artists, art critics, experts, gallery owners, art collectors and journalists including Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation Alexander Avdeev, artists Illia and Emilia Kabakov, President of Alfa-Bank Peter Aven, entrepreneur and art collector, owner of the Regina Gallery Vladimir Ovcharenko and others.

The same night, following the official opening of the Ukrainian Pavilion at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Venice Biennale, over 500 representatives of the global art society were present at the dedicated reception party. Among the guests who viewed the exhibition and joined the party was the top-model Naomi Campbell, one of the leading fashion-designers Mark Jacobs, architect Zurab Tsereteli, the Council of Europe's Goodwill Ambassador Bianca Jagger, artists Jeff Koons and Antony Gormley, who took part in the exhibition projects of the PinchukArtCentre, one of the participants of the PinchukArtCentre's project "A Poem About An Inland Sea" at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Venice Biennale Boris Mykhailov, founder of the White Cube gallery network Jay Jopling. At the party Vitali Klitschko came instead his brother Wladimir, who was the curator of the Ukrainian Pavilion exposition and could not make it.

The reception party on the eve of 4 June started with the show of the Ukrainian band "DahaBraha" and went on till late night hours. At about 10pm Verka Serdushka started her performance with her 2007 Eurovision song Lasha Thumbai. In the backyard of the Palazzo Papadopoli the party guests had a chance to enjoy dishes of Ukrainian cuisine, which became a custom at the Ukrainian Pavilion in Venice.

**Victor Pinchuk, businessman and philanthropist:** "PinchukArtCentre appreciates the new opportunity to help the international team of artists representing Ukraine at the Venice Biennale. Every Biennale is a new challenge that advances one more and more. And there is always space for advancement, since the steppes of exploration are infinite."

**Vasyl Vovkun, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Ukraine:** "We are very proud to have Ukraine represented at the Venice Biennale for the fifth time. And we are glad to work together for the second time with such a renowned art institution as the PinchukArtCentre. I hope this project will open new, still undiscovered pages of the Ukrainian contemporary art and culture."

## PinchukArtCentre

Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ukraine

**Peter Doroshenko, Commissioner of the Ukrainian Pavilion:** "Ukraine has always been an interconnecting point for cultural, social and economic routes that extend from West to East. Illya Chichkan at one point in his life was a fashion designer and then later became an artist. Mihara Yasuhiro started out as an artist and then became a fashion designer. Wladimir Klitschko, the world champion boxer, has been appointed curator for the exhibition. Their varied backgrounds will create an important dialogue around identity and roles issues in society today."

**Wladimir Klitschko, World heavyweight boxing champion, curator of the Ukrainian Pavilion:** "Boxing is not just a sport, but also a spectacular public performance. Therefore, my participation in the "Steppes of Dreamers" is a kind of transformation of my role in social life. This is a transition of the performance from a sports domain to the domain of arts. I am really happy to have been given an opportunity to let every person in the world rediscover Ukraine and its people in a different way."

**Eckhard Schneider, General Director of the PinchukArtCentre:** "Working with the Ukrainian and Japanese artists, the PinchukArtCentre positions its commitment to bridge national identity and international challenges. Officially representing Ukraine for the second time at the Venice Biennale has been a part of the global competence and a long term strategy of the PinchukArtCentre, the young but seminal art institution which supports, develops and promotes the Ukrainian art-scene."

### Background information:

#### Location:

Ukrainian Pavilion

[www.ukrainianpavilion2009.org](http://www.ukrainianpavilion2009.org)

Palazzo Papadopoli

San Polo, 1364

30125 Venice, Italy



#### Organising Institutions:

PinchukArtCentre

Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ukraine

#### Partners:

International Brand: Nemiroff – Partner of the Ukrainian Pavilion at the 53d Venice Biennale

#### Artists:

**Illya Chichkan** was born in 1967 in Kyiv. Illya Chichkan can be regarded as one of the founders of the Ukrainian art movement *New Wave*, formed in the early 1990s and is one of the most internationally exhibited artists living in Ukraine. Chichkan has taken part in various exhibitions, including: *Reflection*, PinchukArtCentre (Kyiv, 2007); *Manifesta 5*, San-Sebastian (Spain, 2004); and the *Sao Paulo International Biennale* (Brazil, 1996).

Official website: [chichkan.com](http://chichkan.com)

## PinchukArtCentre

Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ukraine

**Mihara Yasuhiro** was born in 1972 in Nagasaki, Japan. As a student at Tama Art University, he started developing designs for his own footwear brand, opening his first boutique in 1998. In 2001, in collaboration with Puma, Mihara launched a special footwear collection *PUMA by Miharayasuhiro*. For the past few years, Yasuhiro has been active in both women's and men's clothing shows in both Milan and Paris.

Official website: [sosu.co.jp](http://sosu.co.jp)

### Kinichi Ogata

1970: Born in Sendai, Japan

1996: Starts his career as a freelance designer

1998: Sets up 'OGATA' company and sells original furniture / store design and construction

EXHIBITIONS /WORKS

2004: Exhibition 'Tokyo Designers Block'

2007: Design for SOSU MIHARAYASUHIRO Hong Kong Store

2008: Exhibition 'Maison&OBJET' in Paris

**Original music created for the exhibition by Fuyuki Yamakawa (Tokyo, Japan).**

### PinchukArtCentre

PinchukArtCentre is one of the largest centres for contemporary art in the Eastern Europe, opening in September 2006. The PinchukArtCentre organises exhibitions by leading international and Ukrainian artists and supports various other cultural art initiatives. At the present time, the art centre has the major exhibition, *Damien Hirst: Requiem* up until 20 September 2009. In October 2009, the centre will open major exhibition of short-listed artists in association with the PinchukArtCentre Prize and a focused exhibition about Ukrainian contemporary art. In 2007, the PinchukArtCentre organised the Ukrainian Pavilion at the 52nd Venice Biennale entitled - *Poem about an Inland Sea*.

For more information please visit: [pinchukartcentre.org](http://pinchukartcentre.org)

### The Victor Pinchuk Foundation

Established in 2006 by businessman and philanthropist Victor Pinchuk, the Victor Pinchuk Foundation is one of the largest private philanthropic organizations in Ukraine. The Foundation develops and implements social projects aimed at modernising Ukraine and nurturing a new generation of Ukrainian leaders.

For more information please visit: [pinchukfund.org](http://pinchukfund.org)

**Nemiroff** is a socially responsible company which puts a high value to its social and charity programs realization. It constantly comes forward as an organizer and sponsor of various international projects in the areas of sport, culture, fashion, etc.

For more information please visit: [nemiroff.ua](http://nemiroff.ua)

*For information, images or interviews please contact Dennis Kazvan, head of the press-office of the PinchukArtCentre*

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