

Tetiana Slobodianyuk

/ No Place To Return

A year of deprivation, rethinking, reassembling myself.

In 2022, like many Ukrainians, I ended up in Finland as a result of the war in my country. And from the first days I realised that I was not just in a new culture, but in an active, living culture, which was well demonstrated by society. People were tolerant and respectful of themselves, each other and the surrounding nature. The relationships they built were based on non-violence and decisions were made after listening to all sides.



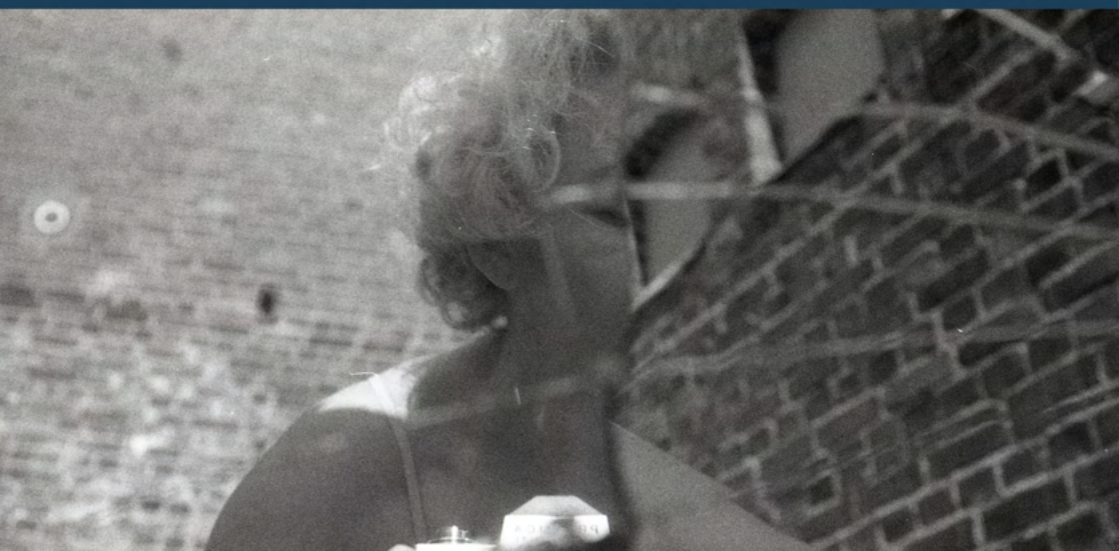
It takes extraordinary courage to live through the events that happen day after day and to deal with difficult emotions that were previously unfamiliar to the body, but I definitely understand that I do not want to exclude this process from my life, no matter how difficult it is. After all, if I don't tell myself the truth, no one will be able to convey it to me.

It was very scary and unclear how to experience new emotions, and I hid in depression. Everything scared me: the possibilities, the rapid movement of the landscape outside the window when travelling on public transport, and my ability to manifest. I didn't understand much about my condition. Basically, what I have to do is reach down, touch it with my hand. Only then can I make the right choices in life. I also understood that I was not in tune with myself, that I had a certain gap between my lived experience, my ideas, my feelings on the one hand, and my expressions on the other. I understood that I had to close this gap, but I had no idea how. I understood the rest in fragments, and complex and multi-step actions were not easy for me at all. I forgot why I had picked up this or that thing. From time to time, I would piece together my memories and make up a story so that I would not forget who I was. But sometimes I couldn't understand exactly what had happened to me and what they were telling me about me. So I started writing a diary.





Trying to overcome the broken connection in perception, I resorted to countless artistic practices, hoping to meet my unconscious and thus regain myself. But what frightened me most was not only my inner state, but my inability to make social connections. It's as if the trauma has left ragged edges through which I connect with other people, remembering their history, and inserting parts where I can't remember anything. Everything is confused in my mind. But in this way I can at least overcome the silence. At the same time, trying to come to terms with a negative and terrible experience has become the centre of my thoughts; I try to stabilise my emotions, but they seem to repeat themselves.



Probably the most difficult thing for a human being to do is simply to observe and accept it as it is. We always distort what we see with our hopes, expectations and fears. In life we come across a lot of things that we don't agree with, that we don't expect to see: that's why I'm glad I shoot every day. The camera has no preconceptions, it just records what it sees.

Just like a year ago, I'm still here at the AARK residence, blessed by Renja and Benkku. Working with my project: Private Diary "No place to return "

TETIANA SLOBODIANYK

Photographer/Director/Visual artist Born in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine in 1982. Documentary photographer and filmmaker who devotes her creative quest to the study of personal boundaries and their vulnerability, the fragility of the human personality, and the possibilities for interacting with the outside world.

Education: 2003 | Medical College (Kremenchug), obstetrics department; 2005 | Kharkov Pharmaceutical Institute; Tania got 6 years of experience in maternity hospital; 2009 - 2011 | Odessa Institute named after Mechnikov, Faculty of Journalism; 2011 - 2014 | Odessa Theater University, Faculty of Cinema-Photo production; 2019 | art photo school "MYPH" . 2022 | stay in AARK Residence



Editor's note: Tetiana has been staying at AARK in Korpo for over a year now, thanks to HIAP's Ukraine Solidarity Residencies Programme and the tireless efforts and dedication of Renja and Benkku. We would like to thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

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