

#WithUkrainianJungians

Walking alongside our Ukrainian colleagues and all those facing erasure

Webinar 15 Tuesday 16th April 2024 18:00 - 19:45 BST

Ursula Wirtz & Victoria Demchenko

The Wisdom of the Arts in Transforming Trauma

"The soul that is enslaved to war cries out for deliverance." Simone Weil

Chair: **Eva Pattis**

ALL ARE WELCOME

Book [HERE](#)

in association with **GAP** (Guild of Analytical Psychologists), **WorldlyWise**, **ARAS** (Archive for Research in Archetypal Symbolism) & **Sanctus Media**

Welcome

I was told that Winston Churchill once said, in response to being asked to cut arts funding in favour of the war effort: “*Then what are we fighting for?*” Sadly, it seems to be only a common red herring surfing the Internet. But another Statesman did talk about art more recently at the Venice Biennale of Art in April 2022. This Statesman is President Zelenskyi:

“No words can express the feelings of a little girl from Mariupol writing a letter to her mother who has been murdered by Russian bombs; no words can express what the Ukrainian soldiers felt when they discovered the corpses of hundreds of their fellow citizens in Butcha. These feelings cannot be shown on television. No platform in the world can evoke the feelings of the doctors in Kharkiv, who were themselves bombed as they came to treat the victims. Only art can convey these feelings. Only art can tell the world things that cannot be shared in any other way.” He concluded: “Support our fight with your art!”” “

In the first few days and weeks of the full scale invasion of the Russian forces into Ukrainian territory, there were accounts of Ukrainian artists, historian of arts and art lovers working tirelessly to save and protect every possible piece of art and artifacts.

They were photographing them and digitising the photos, from unknown artists to national treasures.

In Collected Works 15, Jung states:

The creative process [...] consists in the unconscious activation of an archetypal image, and in elaborating and shaping this image into the finished work. By giving it shape, the artist translates it into the language of the present, and so makes it possible for us to find our way back to the deepest springs of life.” (para. 130)

Followed by:

“[...] just as the one-sidedness of the individual’s conscious attitude is corrected by reactions from the unconscious, so art represents a process of self-regulation in the life of nations and epochs.” (para. 131)

The two speakers in this webinar, Ursula Wirtz and Victoria Demchenko, will bring testimonies and an in-depth exploration of the creative process and artistic expression as catalysts for healing of wounds and trauma, be they old or new. Eva Pattis, our guest chair, is also well experienced as she uses art in her practice with sandplay. She has witnessed, and written on, the impact of the sandplay process in numerous vulnerable communities.

Every month for fifteen months, there has been a WUJ webinar. It has been possible, thanks to the support of ARAS, for any participant to share images and sounds inspired by these webinars by uploading them onto the ARAS platform. Do contribute to this collection of inspirations or take a look at this virtual gallery by clicking [here](#).

Please come and support our Ukrainian colleagues as this is one of your last chances to join a live webinar in this series!

Warmly,

Claire Mouchot

Ursula Wirtz

Ursula writes:

Born amidst the debris of postwar Germany, a landscape fraught with both the victims and the victimisers, my childhood was etched with harrowing war tales of carpet bombings, homes ablaze, the haunting spectacle of people trampled to death in a frenzied panic outside bunkers and women's suffering from rape, hunger, and deprivation. These experiences charted the course of my life, instilling a fervent dedication to standing in solidarity with those who've borne the brunt of injustice, erasure, and the ravages of war.

My work is deeply entrenched in exploring the intricate interplay between art, violence, death, and the enduring echoes of trauma. I try to endeavour to piece together the fragments of the splintered soul, weaving threads of unity from the fabric of brokenness. Having immersed myself in the turbulent currents of sorrow while engaging with my Jungian counterparts in Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine, my being resonated with the poignant narratives of those compelled to abandon their homes—their sanctuaries, their ancestral landscapes. A profound yearning arises within me to contribute to the construction of bridges spanning the profound chasms, fostering a collective consciousness of 'interbeing.' It is an endeavour to cultivate an awareness of my interconnectedness and kinship with the entirety of existence, thereby embracing the profound truth encapsulated in the words: "Nothing human is alien to me." (Roman poet, Terence)



Ursula Wirtz, Ph.D., holds a doctorate in literature and philosophy, with a multifaceted expertise, being a clinical and anthropological psychologist as well as a Jungian psychoanalyst.

She has been internationally engaged in the training of Jungian analysts in Russia, Czech Republic, the Baltic States, China, and Taiwan. As a psychotraumatologist, serving for 20 years as a board member of a Swiss Foundation for War Trauma Therapy, she has been actively involved in global efforts focused on peace and reconciliation. Her experiences extended to providing supervision for war and torture victims through the Red Cross and guiding therapists in their work with female survivors of mass rapes in former Yugoslavia.

Ursula has contributed significantly to the field, with numerous publications covering diverse areas such as trauma, ethics, soul murder, and the convergence of psychotherapy and spirituality. Among her seminal works, *"Trauma and Beyond: The Mystery of Transformation"* stands as a testament to her expertise, having been translated into multiple languages including German, Russian, Polish, Czech, and Chinese. Moreover, her impact extends to the translation of two other books, *"Soulmurder: Incest and Therapy"* and *"Hunger for Meaning"* (Wirtz/Zöbeli) into Ukrainian.

About this webinar

We will embark on a deep exploration into the realm of art, where visionary imagery catalyses the healing of our wounds and unveils windows of hope amidst the depths of darkness and despair. President Volodymyr Zelensky's impassioned plea to artists at the onset of the Biennale 2023 resonates profoundly, urging art to stand as a staunch adversary against the insidious 'voice of evil'.

I want to present the profound and stirring response from traumatised individuals and communities worldwide, as they heeded this call for resistance and protest through the medium of artistic expression.

Delving into the depths of our collective unconscious, we witness horror's alchemical transformation into poetry, dance, film, sculpture, and painting - an embodiment of truth through the evocative guise of artistic creation. I trust the meaning-making function of creative processes as a spiritual resource to express the inexpressible in these apocalyptic times.

Victoria Demchenko



Victoria writes:

What can a person oppose to the horror and catastrophe of war?

Affirmation of identity and discovery of the meaning that underlies creative processes. The creative instinct is inherent in every person and finds its expression in artistic form and psychological creativity - in the ability to create oneself despite the rapidly developing convergence of history and the myth of the apocalypse.

This gives me hope that the trauma of war will not be dissociated, frozen in silence or denial, but can be transformed through all possible forms of artistic creation.

Victoria Demchenko is an Analytical Psychologist who has worked in private practice in Kyiv for more than 20 years. She conducts Development Seminars in America, where she now lives, and an online course, "Analytical Workshop: Working with Dreams in a Jungian Approach," for Ukrainian psychologists. She is an IAAP Router and a member of the Ukrainian Development Group of IAAP.

Victoria continues:

We will turn to the cultural aspect of the war of Ukrainian democratic independence against Russian imperial totalitarianism. One of the sources of inspiration in this struggle is the Ukrainian Baroque of the 17th and 18th centuries - the Cossack era and the period of national identity formation. The multilingual, sophisticated, highly educated, and Ukrainian-in-spirit culture of the big city developed over several centuries. The mind, art, and dreams (yes, they had a place in philosophical treatises) were considered a way of understanding the world and self-knowledge. The result was the full confidence of Ukrainians in their subjectivity and full rights, their incredible ability for self-organization, and their sense of dignity and responsibility for the country.

Russian propaganda deliberately imitates and emphasises the similarities between Ukrainian and Russian culture, preferring to keep silent about the significant differences in historical and cultural aspects. This is a manifestation of imperial policy - to blur borders and cultural differences, to dissolve national identity into universal sameness. With the loss of differences, personal identity is absorbed by collective identity, and individuation becomes impossible.

The war unleashed by Russia in Ukraine has been going on for 10 years now, and it is the largest war of extermination in Europe since World War II. In a certain sense, this is a war for the defence and affirmation of Ukrainian identity because "this underground baroque puts up resistance and blooms wildly even in the ruins" (Yurii Andruhovich, Ukrainian poet and novelist).

Eva Pattis



Eva writes:

Ukrainian colleges and friends have been in my heart since I visited Kiev and the Donbas region. I deeply admired how they had expanded the projects of Expressive Sandwork for traumatised children which we had initiated together. They had treated hundreds of children already in the first year.

When I visited cities like Slovjansk and Prokowsk in 2018, often the inhabitants pointed with a sweeping gesture towards the horizon, where the explosions could be seen night after night. There was a note of concern in their accounts that listeners might not quite believe them; that they might believe it was only half as bad; that the whole world might think the war in Syria was much worse. They were right: we, the international community had not listened to their fears carefully enough. We had by far underestimated destructiveness and evil.

Have we learned from this? Are we listening more carefully? Being in contact with our Ukrainian friends and colleagues is helping us to see how things are in reality.

C.G. Jung says that the task of a therapist consists in helping patients to find their way from their fantasy world to the earth. Our own fantasy world was the idea of safety. We needed to come down to earth, where it is unsafe and where our ethical and aesthetic efforts are needed every minute.

Trauma can make people hard and cold, but in the last two years I have seen that this is not always true. Traumatic events have made my Ukrainian colleagues smarter, more flexible, immensely empathic, capable of living intensively, full of humour. I thank them for allowing us to be close and for always forgiving us with a smile, when our efforts to help are clumsy, pathetic, patronising, culturally ignorant and also a bit colonial: at least we provide a funny story for them.

Dr. Eva Pattis is a clinical psychologist and Jungian psychoanalyst treating adults and children. She has taught at various Jung Institutes and organisations worldwide. From 2002-2010 she participated in teaching and training for the IAAP Developing Groups in Hong Kong and Buenos Aires. Eva is the founder of IAES (International Association of Expressive Sandwork), a nonprofit organization creating projects of *Expressive Sandwork* where psychotherapy is not available (www.sandwork.org).

She has written several books such as, *Sandplay Therapy in Vulnerable Communities* translated into 5 languages. Her private analytical practice is in Milan.

How to Book

All #WUJ webinars are offered on a 'Honesty Box' basis.

All our presenters give their time for free so that those attending the webinars or viewing them online can contribute the equivalent to the entrance fee to our colleagues in Ukraine. The 'Honesty Box' system allows for colleagues in areas of different economic wealth to attend.

We invite you to donate one hour fees per month to support our colleagues - or whatever you feel appropriate. Thank you.

1.

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on our **GoFundMe** page: **HERE**

To be as inclusive as possible, suggested minimum donations (by World Bank ranking) are:

High income: North America, Australia and Europe: £25 (trainees and routers: £15)

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Lower middle income: South East Asia and Africa: £5 (trainees & routers free)

Ukrainians & those working on the front line with Ukrainians: Free

Israelis and Palestinians: Free

2.

Book your ticket: **HERE**

Webinar 15: April

Ursula Wirtz & Victoria Demchenko

Recordings

All webinars are recorded.

The webinars are always available in **English** and **Ukrainian**.

Some webinars are available in other languages, including **Chinese, German, French, Italian, Spanish & Portuguese**.

We are grateful to **ARAS** for hosting the recordings, enabling colleagues in other time zones to participate and providing a resource for the Jungian community and general public..

As well as providing support to all those colleagues in fear of erasure, the webinars are intended to raise funds for those colleagues in Ukraine who are suffering severe financial hardship. Whether you attend live or join us via a recording, please do consider donating a gift to our Ukrainian colleagues.

Would one hour's fees be possible?

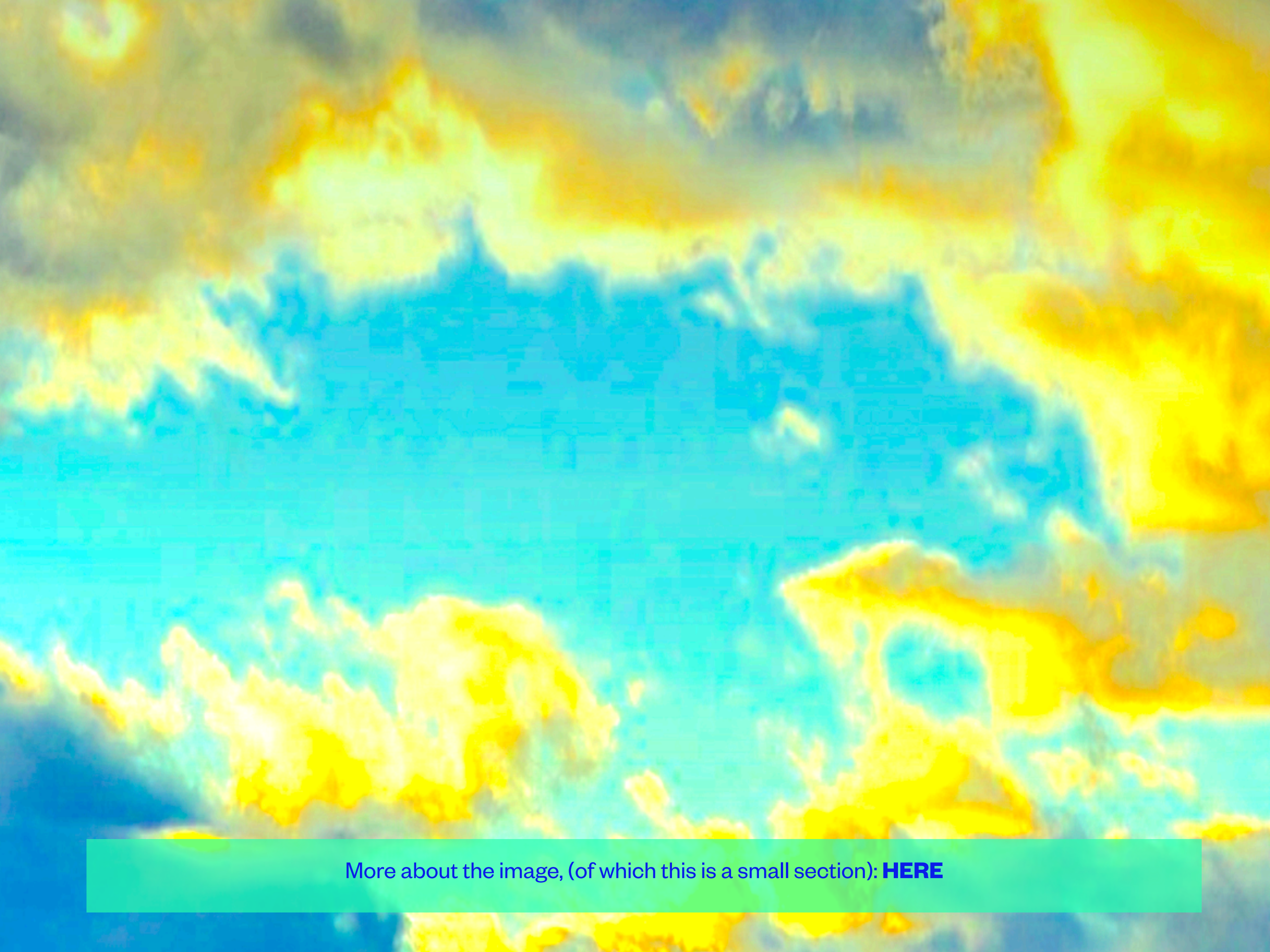
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We usually play a slideshow whilst people arrive in the Zoom room.

To watch the slideshows, please click: [HERE](#)





More about the image, (of which this is a small section): [HERE](#)