

Press release Tuesday 20th June 2023:

The multi-media project "Augmented Reality Tales of War and Peace (ARTWP)" holds its first live meeting having received major support from the EU Creative Europe Foundation for 2023/2024.



Background: On February 24, 2022, the day Russia invaded Ukraine, four old friends/colleagues from the Cultural Association WoWiWo (WorldWideWords, Roskilde) in Denmark and the city of Lviv in western Ukraine met in a small café in Denmark. The old friends had heard the terrible news, and asked each other what they could do, how they should react? It was decided that day that their response to the invasion would be to bring several artistic partners together to utilise the weapons they knew best – their words, their art.

Over the following 3 months, the idea for the large **"Augmented Reality Tales of War and Peace (ARTWP)"** project was born. WoWiWo in Roskilde became the project leader, in close collaboration with our artistic friends/partners from Lviv Municipal Library (Lviv, Ukraine), Les Fous de Bassan (Beaugency, France) and Associazione Oltrezona (Cosenza, Italy). With this project we aim to gather stories of war and peace, that will us all to reflect, and to reflect upon the real consequences of all wars – not only from human, but also from historical and geo-political, perspectives – and the hopes and actions that will bear us forward.

This idea was then submitted to the EU's Creative Europe fund and today - over a year later - we can report that finally all the preliminary paperwork is finally signed and in place, that ARTWP has received almost **€200.000** in support from the EU fund Creative Europe for our work in 2023/2024, and that **on 13/14th June the first live meetings for the all partners took place in Roskilde.**

The war, as we all know, is not over yet, but we still have our weapons - our words and our art - in our hands, in our hearts and in our souls. And it has never been more important than now to meet one with the other around our shared humanity. And it is precisely in such situations that art can play not just an important but, hopefully, a pivotal role.

What now? The ARTWP project in all its simplicity involves 12 artists (3 from each country – see attached info page), each with their own background in digital art, theatre, literature, poetry, music, visual arts, opera, sound, video/film/photography, graphics and much more, who will meet across national borders, and across their own artistic disciplines. Through a series of workshops with local citizens (especially youth), they will create stories both about war and about peace – and hope. They will collect stories i.a. from people who have experienced war "from the inside", as well as those who look at war "from the outside".

These stories will then be transformed into augmented reality (AR), multi-disciplinary artworks that will be placed in the public space where the audience – using our geo-locational AR app. – will be able to experience these stories about the abomination of war, and the necessity of peace, and everything that lies in between, via their smartphones or tablets.

The results will initially be placed in the large squares/public spaces in the 4 partner cities/countries, but can then be placed, and experienced, in squares/public spaces anywhere in the world.

There are further plans for a closing symposium in Lviv, Ukraine in late spring/early summer 2024 about the project, and about the many opportunities - and challenges - that exist in the creation of augmented reality (AR) public art.

The project will run from 1 April 2023 until the end of September 2024 (18 months).

Below are some images/photos from the AR book of poetry “Ukraine. War Words” and related AR projects.

More information about ARTWP from the project's artistic director Peter Campbell Bensted on +45 26292977 or peterbensted@hotmail.com - or to reach all project organizers, email: augmentedrealitytales@protonmail.com. A fact sheet can be send by request with basic information on the participating artists and organisations.

Best wishes,

The Augmented Reality Tales of War and Peace Steering Group:

Peter Campbell Bensted and Arendse Illum (DK); Nelly Klos (UA); Magali Berruet (FR); Renato Costabile (IT).



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Creative Europe Programme
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Image 1.



The first ARTWP live meeting held 13/14th June 202 in Byens Hus (The City House) in Roskilde, Denmark with members of the ARTWP team members, the steering group, and the three Danish artists.

Image 2:



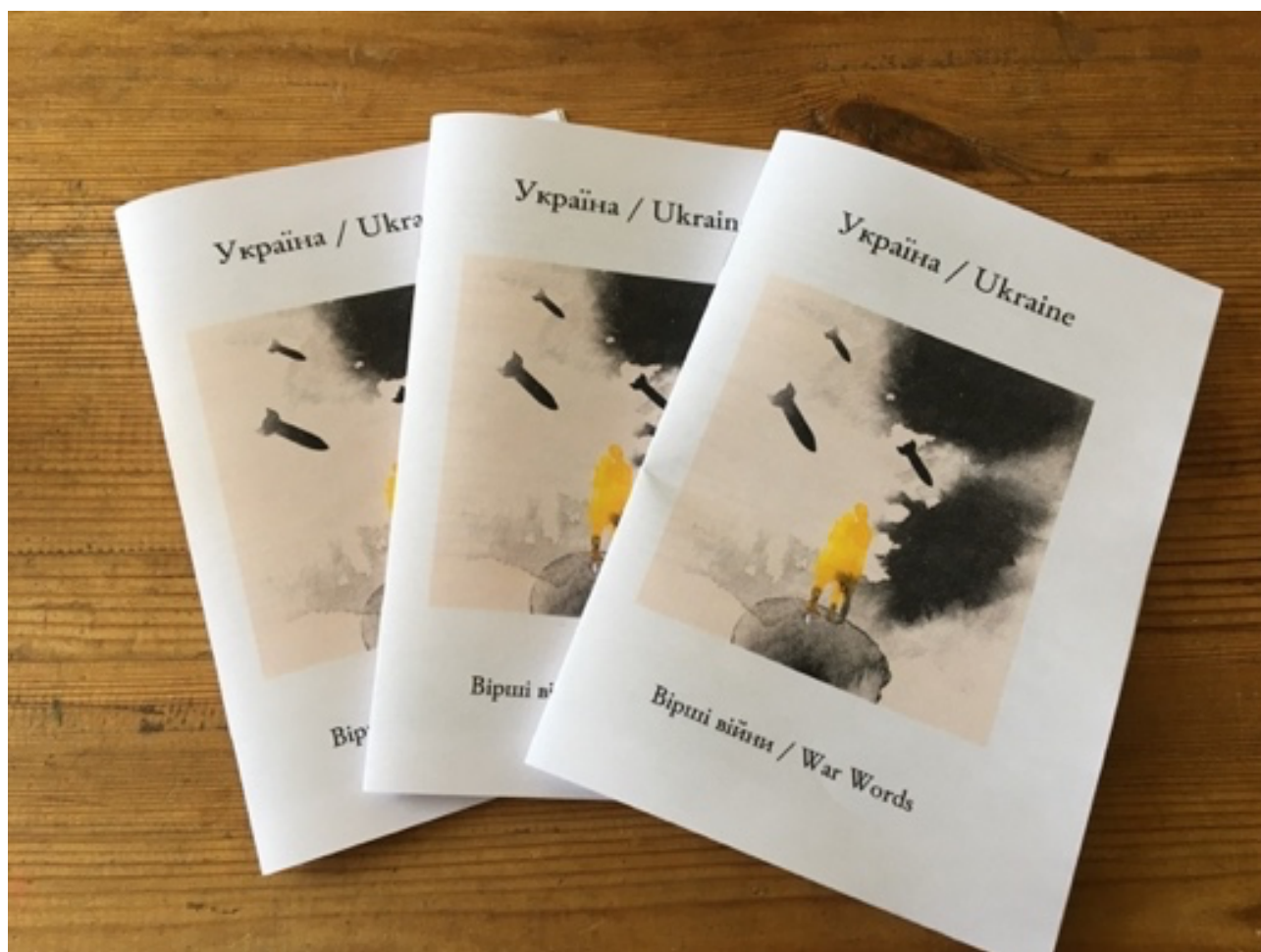
ARTWP team members checking an AR artwork on the main square in Roskilde on their smart phones through the Artvive app.

The artwork is called “Sssh, do not be afraid my child” and was created by one of the students from the foundation arts course BGK in Roskilde – Frederik Bang Nielsen - during a series of AR/flash-fiction workshops led by WoWiWo artists Peter Campbell Bensted and Bumbum Malou in early spring 2023.

Image 3:

"Ukraine. War Words!"

AR poetry book with four Ukrainian poets and one Ukrainian illustrator created in 2022. The book was filled with "here-and-now" poems and images from five of Ukraine's most powerful writers and illustrators. The book was presented at the festival "Ukraine Culture Days" already in the Easter holidays 2022 in Litteraturhaus in Copenhagen, with online participation by the authors - and with support from The Ukrainian Danish Youth House.



See more images from the book below:

Image 4:



Front cover illustration by Anastasaya Avramchuk for the Augmented Reality poetry book "Ukraine. War Words" (2022-2023)

Image 5:



Illustration by Anastasiya Avramchuk, from the Augmented reality poetry book “Ukraine. War Words”, for the poems and stories by Ostap Slyvnsky.

The story is called “The Cherry Plum Tree”, and was told to him by a young girl from Mariupol. It is from his collection of stories called “The Dictionary of War”.

It can be listened to in first in Ukrainian and afterwards English by downloading the augmented reality Artivive app. and then pointing your phone or tablet camera at the illustration.