

"Postcards from Ukraine" Alina Potemka

We send postcards for special moments: to cheer, to celebrate, but also to remember. "Postcards from Ukraine" is a series of postcards reflecting the current state in Ukraine which we wish to forget but can't: personal stories mixed with stories from the news that become as close as your friend's. Polaroid-style cards aim to document and remember moments related to war as personally as possible. QR codes accompanied by illustrations will lead you to the news page it's referring to.

On the 24th of February, many millions of people's lives changed significantly. Even being safe myself, I stopped doing everything I used to. This strange feeling of responsibility to synchronize your whole life with changes happening in your country. It was exactly the same feeling as during the Revolution of Dignity in 2013/14; the annexation of Crimea the same year, and the long-lasting war since then in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions. But on a totally different level.

Being settled in London for a few years hasn't separated me from the same feeling about my home country. Art saved me again. An emotional rollercoaster that pushed all anxiety feelings to the limit had to be balanced in some way. Hearing daily about the extremely scary and damaging experience of hearing air sirens, the inhumane behavior of occupiers, the sacrifice of Ukrainian heroes more honorable than any Marvel movie has ever seen, the constant worry about friends and family... I just kept drawing.

Artist's Bio

Alina Potemka — visual artist and illustrator, tabletop game designer, Doctor of Arts, and activist. She was born in Kyiv and obtained her Ph.D. degree at The Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. Since 2008 she has exhibited both solos and in group shows in many countries including the UK, USA, France, Poland, and Ukraine, introducing illustrations and games.

In her illustration, she usually captures daily scenes through fast sketches and digital drawings. After a full-scale invasion of her home country, she focused on illustration as a tool to share stories from her land.

As an activist, she organized the protest "We don't need your support" against a pro-Russian foundation acting in Poland.

She runs board game nights called *Ludensa Games* in local communities to popularize games as an everyday activity.

Lives and works in London.

Artist's web pages:

potemka.com

[instagram.com/akilina.po](https://www.instagram.com/akilina.po)

[behance.net/potemka](https://www.behance.net/potemka)