



GARDEN MUSEUM

## FLOWERS FROM THE FRONTLINE

Press Release  
Flowers from the Frontline

An Exhibition of Ukrainian war flowers, a series of fine jewellery miniature pressed flower books and documentary film excerpts on show at the Bedales Memorial Library in Petersfield, UK. Official opening on February 29th 2024. Three artists; painter Olga Morozova, jewellery designer Phoebe Walsh, and filmmaker Carmela Corbett are collaborating on this ongoing project.



Herbarium, of Olga's Flowers, Courtesy of Philip Norman.

Two days after Russia declared war on Ukraine, February 25th 2022, Phoebe Walsh was inspired to create a series that worked with flowers picked from the new frontlines in Ukraine. She recalls feeling strongly about what was happening in Ukraine, *"I wanted to create something to continue a conversation of the war unfolding, but with hope; a reminder that while life may be fragile, it is resilient."* At the time, she had been looking at objects that explore nature and war displayed in the Garden Museum, London, when inspiration took form. Wildflower pressings made by Jane Lindsay in 1956, from London's WWII bomb sites, along with flowers picked from the Eastern Front on the battlefields by WWI soldier George Marr, resonated - both in the Garden Museum's permanent collection.

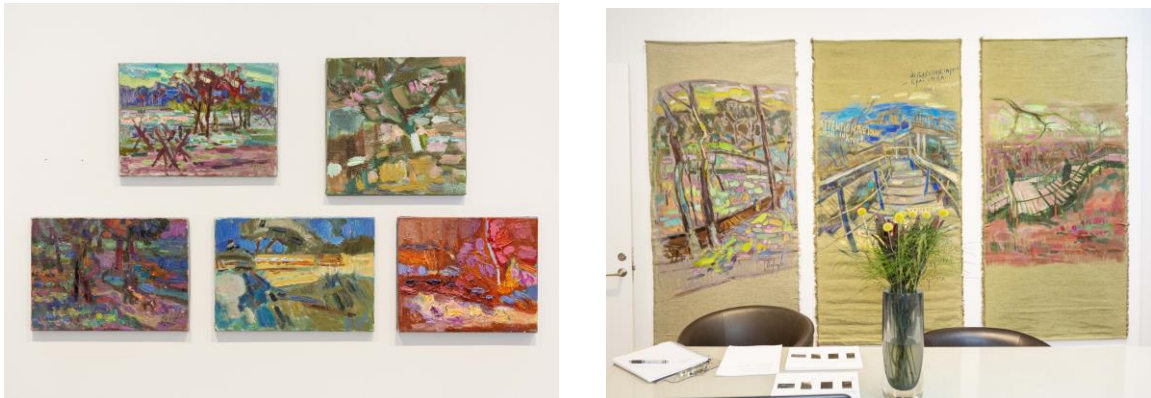
Over the course of eight months, Phoebe wrote to artists and gardeners in Ukraine via social media to share ideas of the project. In March 2022, Kyivan artist Olga Morozova responded and agreed to collaborate with this project, although the ground then was still frozen and flowers yet to arrive. Olga hoped that by the time the wildflowers blossomed, peace would arrive. When Carmela Corbett, filmmaker, writer, actor and dear friend of Phoebe heard of the project unfolding, she felt drawn to the story and decided to record the process - leading to the creation of her first documentary. The footage, still in production, has since expanded to record many forms of art produced during the ongoing war, dancers, musicians and artists taking refuge and strength in their work. Cinematically seeking to explore the work of visionary artists amidst the conflict.



Palo Gallery NYC 2023, photo credit Emma Pratte

Today the war continues, and **Flowers from the Frontline** expands to include a wider body of work. Since the exhibition was shown in the Garden Museum Archivist space, November 2022 - January 2023, Olga creates new work on Popudrenko park and upon rediscovering a book of original flower pressings she now paints botanicals into her canvas. Phoebe's latest jewellery collection, **Loveletter to Kyiv**, creates ethereal designs made from the leftover flowers from Olga's Herbarium, painted in wax and cast into recycled metal. Each design named after one of seven creative Ukrainian muses relocated to the UK since the war. Carmela's documentary, **Flowers from the Frontline**,

continues to grow - encapsulating unheard voices of soldier poets as they wait on the frontlines. The material considers the legacy of what artists leave behind; a notion especially poignant as since the time of recording some artists involved are no longer with us. Through this exploration both in nature and art, we consider the search for meaning, hope and beauty in a time of destruction.



Palo Gallery NYC 2023, photo credit Emma Pratte

*If you have a story you would like to share in the **Flowers from the Frontline** project, get in touch with Carmela at [corbettproductionltd@gmail.com](mailto:corbettproductionltd@gmail.com). After touring, each of the Flowers from the Frontline Series miniature silver books will be individually auctioned to raise money for artists in Ukraine. Contact Phoebe at [hello@phoebewalshjewellery.com](mailto:hello@phoebewalshjewellery.com) to find out more.*

**Phoebe Walsh** is a London based jeweller who specialises in botanical inspired jewellery; often celebrating the humblest of forms in finely textured recycled silver and gold, such as blades of Common Grass. Her designs weave together elements from the natural world, myth and folklore. Phoebe received a First-Class Honors in Fine Art from the University of Leeds, before gaining her Jewellery Diploma at The British Academy of Jewellery. Over the past 7 years, she has worked in Hatton Garden and been mentored by London's most eminent contemporary designers. In 2017, Into the Meadows (Silver, Fine Gold plate,) was exhibited in A Museum of Modern Nature, Wellcome Collection, London. In her forthcoming collection, Loveletter to Kyiv, sales will help raise 20% profits for artists in Ukraine. [www.phoebewalshjewellery.com](http://www.phoebewalshjewellery.com)

**Olga Morozova** is a Ukrainian artist born in Kyiv. She received a master's degree in painting from the National Academy of Arts and Architecture in 1998. Morozova has participated in more than twenty solo exhibitions and over one hundred group exhibitions and international projects. In 2019, she represented Ukraine in Dubai at the exhibition 'Women Artists from 100 Countries'; in 2022 she was selected for the exhibition of Ukrainian artists in the Venice Biennale, and as Ukraine's representative at the Asian Art Biennale in Bangladesh. Morozova consciously chose the Fauvist palette, adopting the strong colours and fierce brushwork style. She works intuitively to create

boldly layers colours which result in eye-catching compositions. Her painting Fortifications Of The City, 2022 (Oil, sackcloth, trench sand) was also part of the Young Masters Autumn Exhibition 2022, was shortlisted for the 2023 Young Masters Art Prize and her Park series was most recently shown at the Palo Gallery NYC 2023 and is currently in the Exhibitionist Hotel South Kensington Young Masters Curation through March 2024. [www.olgamorozova.com.ua](http://www.olgamorozova.com.ua)

**Carmela Corbett** is a producer, writer, actress, teacher and director of production company, Corbett Productions LTD. Carmela mentors emerging performers and teaches a film making class at The Lee Strasberg Institute. A dual citizen of the UK & USA, she received her BFA in acting from The Juilliard School. In October 2020 Carmela wrote, produced and starred in the British short film, "Her Majesty", executive produced by Pete Townshend and directed by Rebekah Fortune. The film premiered at the Oscar/BAFTA qualifying LA Shorts 2021 and BFI London Film Festival 2022. The film won Best Drama Short from the New Renaissance Festival 2022, Audience Choice award from HollyShorts 2022 and multiple accolades from the Lee Strasberg Film Festival 2022. Carmela has performed on stage in major theatres in London's West End and in both New York and Los Angeles. On-screen, she has appeared as Lola in the BBC series "Undercover", and in the final season of the highly popular "Mad Men". [www.carmelacorbett.com](http://www.carmelacorbett.com)