

Friday, July 28, 2023

## **MacEwan University announces inaugural Gene Zwozdesky Artist in Residence**

**Edmonton** – MacEwan University is happy to announce that Ukrainian multidisciplinary artist [Slinko](#) will be the inaugural Gene Zwozdesky Artist in Residence for the 2023/24 academic year.

This program was established in the fall of 2022 and is a collaboration between the [Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre](#) (URDC) and the [Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications](#) (FFAC). The program is funded by a donation from the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE).

“It is both a great honour and a humbling experience to be selected as the inaugural artist for the Gene Zwozdesky Artist in Residence program,” says Slinko. “While I acknowledge my indebtedness to Ukrainian heritage, I also recognize the responsibility of contributing to the richness and complexity of Ukrainian culture. At this moment in history, I want to explore forms of belonging in the Ukrainian diaspora that articulate perseverance and flourishing, while gesturing towards possible futures.”

While she is in residence in the Studio Arts Department on campus, Slinko will craft a project titled “Motherless Nation.” The project will focus on Ukrainian refugees and how their experiences have affected their connection to their home country, language and culture. She intends to present her findings in a variety of formats, including video, sculpture and a book of interviews and essays.

“Hosting Slinko within the Studio Arts Department is tremendously exciting,” says [Elisabeth Belliveau](#), chair of the Department of Studio Arts. “Our students will benefit from sharing time on campus with such an accomplished, internationally recognized artist.”

Slinko is a Ukrainian-born artist who currently lives in the United States. Her work – which crosses mediums from performance to drawing to political satire – is informed by her experiences growing up in the final years of the Soviet Union, and is inspired by everyday interactions and material culture.

Slinko will also lead workshops, give lectures and host public events during her residency, inviting students, faculty and community members to engage in discussions and encourage creativity.

The program is named for former Edmonton MLA and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Gene Zwozdesky, who was also a community organizer, musician and champion for the arts in Alberta. Zwozdesky was also involved heavily with MacEwan, supporting program development between faculty and students in MacEwan’s business, nursing, sociology and music programs and Ukrainian universities. While in office, he also hosted MacEwan’s international visitors from Ukraine at the Alberta Legislature and arranged for the establishment of the province’s Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations, including the URDC’s director as a member.

**For more information, please contact [archerj24@macewan.ca](mailto:archerj24@macewan.ca)**

*Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 90 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning*

*environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.*