

Hello! I'm Maria from Dovzhenko Centre (Kyiv, Ukraine). We are film archive and cultural centre. Recently we opened an exhibition as a part of Kyiv Biennial, it's called "The River Wailed Like a Wounded Beast" and it's about the subjugation of the Dnipro was represented in cinema and it asks pertinent questions about our future coexistence with rivers and seas. You can read a little bit more about an exhibition here.

This year Kyiv Biennial takes place in 7 cities, 4 of them is the EU. Maybe you'll be interested to visit <https://2023.kyivbiennial.org/eng/locations>

And we always waiting for you in Dovzhenko Centre 😊

Mariia



The River Wailed Like a Wounded Beast

Curated by Stanislav Bytyutskiy, Aliona Penzii, Oleksandr Teliuk

<https://2023.kyivbiennial.org/eng/program/the-river-wailed-like-a-wounded-beast>

On June 6, 2023, Russian troops blew up the Kakhovka reservoir dam, committing yet another war crime during their full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Social and environmental consequences of this event will become clear only in the future. Meanwhile, we want to return to the past in order to examine the processes brought about by Soviet modernization: the

construction of a cascade of hydroelectric power plants on the Dnipro and the ideological reenvisioning of Ukraine's water resources.

Along with other megalomaniacal Soviet projects, the construction of the HPPs, especially of the Dnipro hydroelectric station (1927–1932), was widely publicized in films and interpreted by many artists including Dzyga Vertov, Oleksandr Dovzhenko, Ivan Kavaleridze, Arnold Kordium and Yulia Solntseva. Occasionally, Ukrainian Soviet films went beyond presenting positive images of large-scale construction sites and revealed pre-modern forms of human coexistence with rivers as well as the negative consequences of the industrial exploitation of water bodies.

Today's tragedy gives us an impetus to think about the way the subjugation of the Dnipro was represented in cinema and ask pertinent questions about our future coexistence with rivers and seas. It also calls on us to look for subtle ways of "decolonizing nature" against the background of Ukraine's political decolonization and liberation from Russian occupation and imperial influence.

Project coordination (Kyiv Biennial): Serhii Klymko

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Head of Museum of cinema: Olena Honcharuk

Architecture of the exhibition space: Oleksandr Burlaka

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Preparation and delivery of film copies for the parallel program: Film Fund staff

Film scanning: Oleksandr Bertman

Museum support: Maryna Skyrda

Composer: Oleksii Podat

Technical support: Stanislav Holtvanychenko

Preparation of exhibition space, installation of the exhibition: Yurii Babaryka, Yurii Belkovets, Oleksandr Shchokolov

Exhibition space administrator: Liliia Miniaienko, Anastasiia Kyrlyova

Partners: Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Central State Audiovisual and Electronic Archive, Ukraine War Archive, Mystetskyi Arsenal

Media partners: Suspilne Culture, The Village, Don't Take Fake

Participants

- [Aksel Lundin](#)
- [Aliona Penzii](#)
- [Arnold Kordium](#)
- [Dziga Vertov](#)
- [Leonid Osyka](#)
- [Mikhail Kaufman](#)
- [Mykola Bazarkin](#)
- [Oleksandr Dovzhenko](#)
- [Oleksandr Teliuk](#)
- [Oleksii Podat](#)
- [Stanislav Bytiutskyi](#)
- [Yarema Malashchuk and Roman Khimei](#)
- [Yevhen Makarov](#)
- [Yuliya Solntseva](#)

Photos : <https://www.flickr.com/photos/152924044@N06/albums/72177720312181045>



Dovzhenko Centre

<https://2023.kyivbiennial.org/eng/locations/kyiv>

The Oleksandr Dovzhenko National Centre (Dovzhenko Centre) is the largest Ukrainian film archive with an extensive collection that includes 9,000 feature films, documentaries, Ukrainian and foreign animated films and thousands of archival records from the history of Ukrainian cinema.

Dovzhenko Centre was launched in 1994 based on the largest Soviet Ukrainian film printing factory (founded in 1948), and today it is one of the most dynamic cultural institutions in Ukraine that can boast a wide international representation in

the film industry. Dovzhenko Centre acts as an umbrella for a modern climate-controlled film vault, the only film printing laboratory in Ukraine, a Cinema Museum, a non-film archive, a multimedia library and a publishing department. It stores, promotes, researches and distributes the national film legacy in Ukraine and abroad.