

Press release**Technische Universität Berlin****Stefanie Terp**

06/13/2022

<http://idw-online.de/en/news795451>

Miscellaneous scientific news/publications

Art / design, Construction / architecture, History / archaeology, Social studies

transregional, national

**TU Berlin: Requiem for Kharkiv – photos of a destroyed City – public space exhibition****Ukrainian photographer Stanislav Ostrovs documents the destruction of his home city – public space exhibition at TU Berlin's Architekturmuseum – opening 20 June 2022**

Situated in the north-east of the country, Kharkiv is the second largest city in Ukraine after Kiev and was one of the first targets of Russian attacks in February 2022. An exhibition at TU Berlin's Architekturmuseum to be shown in the public space presents large-format images of the destruction of this important economic and cultural center. The pictures were taken by distinguished Ukrainian photographer Stanislav Ostrovs to document the annihilation of his home city.

We warmly invite you to attend the opening of the exhibition
"Stanislav Ostrovs: Kharkiv – Requiem"

When: 20 June 2022, 18:00

Where: Ernst-Reuter-Platz 1, 10623 Berlin (Gebäude für Bergbau und Hüttenwesen)

The speakers at the event are:

Dr. Hans-Dieter Nägelke, director of the Architekturmuseum at TU Berlin

Professor Dr. Geraldine Rauch, president of Technische Universität Berlin

Konstantin Akinsha, curator of the exhibition

The exhibition will be shown in the public space - as an installation in the windows of the Gebäude für Bergbau- und Hüttenwesen

from 21 June until 21 August 2022.

The exhibition is free of charge.

We would kindly ask you to publish details on your own website etc.

An important part of the common European heritage

Eastern European scholar Karl Schlögel described Kharkiv as a pilgrimage site for anyone wanting to know what the world of tomorrow would look like. He was referring to the Kharkiv of the interwar years, a city that had been a prosperous urban center prior to the Bolshevik revolution and from 1919 had served as capital of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and an architectural and urban development showcase of Soviet modernity. Though not unique to Ukraine, the buildings in constructivist style dominating the historicist and art nouveau buildings dating from the early 20th century form an important part of the common European heritage.

Kharkiv was destroyed in the Second World War and then rebuilt. The city is now witnessing a second destruction. Located just 27 kilometers from the border with Russia and as Ukraine's second largest city with a population of 1.4 million, Kharkiv was one of the first targets of Russian attacks. It was soon transformed into a battlefield and many inhabitants were forced to flee.

From photography professor to chronicler of a war

The "Kharkiv Requiem" exhibition chronicles the city's destruction from the perspective of distinguished Ukrainian photographer Stanislav Ostrous, who prior to the war had taught photography at the city's State Academy of Culture and worked as a conceptual photographer. From 10 March of this year, he has used his pictures to document the destruction of his home city. This was the day that bombs and rockets began bombarding the center of Kharkiv and many people were forced to flee the city. Kharkiv's suburbs were also the scene of bitter fighting. Since then, Ostrous has trawled the empty streets, entered the ruins of newly destroyed buildings and sought shelter in makeshift air-raid shelters or in the solid-looking anterooms of houses whenever the siren alarm sounds. He has managed to obtain a bullet-proof vest, which provides a certain amount of protection from bomb fragments. He has no intention of leaving his home city and is determined to continue to chronicle its barbaric destruction in his pictures. The photos show the photographer's helpless gaze as he views collapsing walls, empty window openings reminiscent of the eye sockets of human skulls, and the ruins of destroyed architectural splendor - they tell us the story of what is happening.

www.architekturmuseum-berlin.de

Further information is available from:

Dr. Hans-Dieter Nägelke

Technische Universität Berlin

Architekturmuseum

Tel.: 030/314-23116

Email: hans-dieter.naegelke@tu-berlin.de