

# Post Truth?

Countering Disinformation Narratives

Ukraine, Poland, Germany and France. 2023



## "Post Truth? Countering Disinformation Narratives"

is a collective exhibition and final presentation of this international project.

During 2023, this project has taken place through a number of collaborative art residencies, exhibitions and workshops in Ukraine, Poland, Germany and France. Artists together with researchers from other disciplines and further audience engaged with challenges of the post-truth era focusing on the growing problem of disinformation and fake news and how it could be countered through critical thinking, media literacy and artistic strategies.

This collective exhibition contains some of the created artistic expressions but also documentation about each residency, information about the artworks created and biographies of the artists involved.

Here you can experience some of the artworks done by the remarkable talented artists who took part. The aim of this space is to keep the discussion going, please feel free to experience the artworks, dig into their context and intentions as well as feel free to discuss it with whoever is around.



# POST TRUTH?

## COUNTERING DISINFORMATION NARRATIVES

**COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION  
FINAL PRESENTATION**

**12, 13 & 14 DECEMBER 2023**  
**Kunstleben Kreuzberg**  
**Gneisenastraße 19, 10961 Berlin**

**12th from 19.00 Vernissage**  
**13th, 14th from 16.00 to 21.00 Opening hours**  
**14th at 19.00 Closing event & performance**

More info:  
[www.posttruthproject.net](http://www.posttruthproject.net)

ORGANISED BY:  
**lernlabor**

FUNDED BY:  
Federal Foreign Office  
CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION

+ PROGRAM WITH GUIDED TOURS  
INFORMATION IN QR CODE & LERNLABOR SOCIAL MEDIA



Artists:

Vartan Markarian  
Roksolana Dudka  
Mikhail Ray  
Gennadiy Che  
Karina Synytsia  
Fedir Khorkov  
Bohdana Zaiats  
Anna Kravchenko  
Ilya Dudarau  
Adrianna Gajdziszewska  
Ewa Greszta  
Volha Piatrushka  
Zuzanna Śmigielska  
Karolina Szwed  
Diana Todorovska  
Anna-Luise Oppelt  
Maria Pä  
Bubble Collective



The process has been guided and curated by Seila Fernández Arconada.

This project has been initiated by Lernlabor and its civil society partners in Ukraine, Poland and France. This project is financed by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany in the framework of its Civil Society Cooperation programme.

Further information about the project:  
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A wooden table with a light-colored top and dark wood legs. On the table, there are several large sheets of paper or documents, some with text and some with dark rectangular areas, possibly representing a map or a layout plan.



A small, rectangular white card or label is mounted on the wall to the right of the photo grid.

A larger rectangular white card or label is mounted on the wall to the right of the photo grid, containing several lines of text.







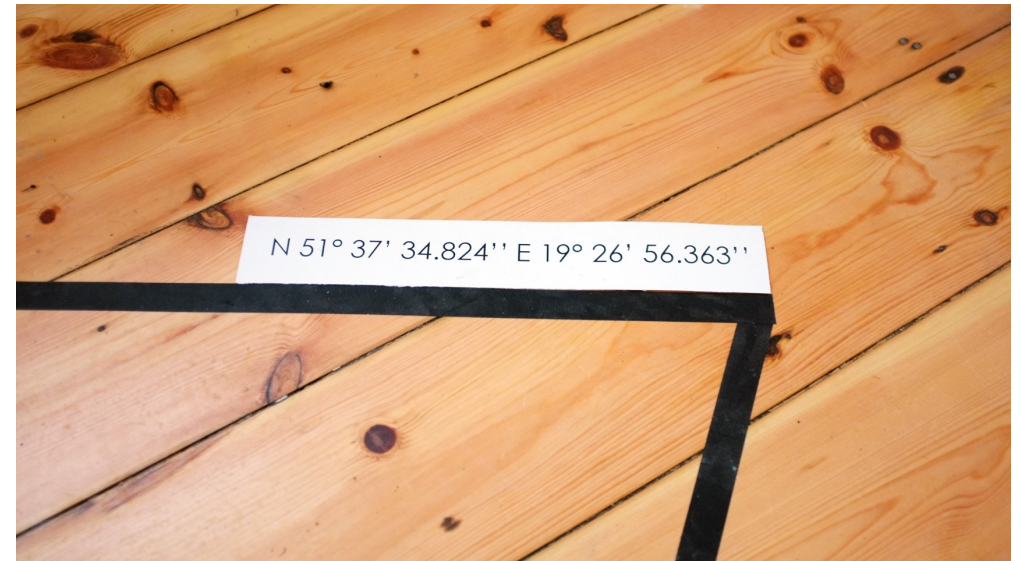
**Prawda** (Poznan, Poland 2023).

Installation including voice recordings, plastic tape.

Voices: Diana Todorovska and citizens of Prawda.  
Created by Adrianna Gajdziszewska, Karolina Szwed and Zuzanna Śmigielska.

Duration: 6 min 39 sec; 2 min 2 sec

Using google, facebook and other communicators, artists have found and contacted with citizens of the village Prawda (which literally translates as Truth) located Lodzkie voivodeship, Poland. We asked them about living conditions and their understanding of the word. Phone calls were registered on a recorder and saved in almost unedited form, so you can feel like someone who is eavesdropping a conversation. The difference between perceptions of the place and the idea of prawda imply many ways to interpret this audio work. On the table there is a shape of Truth (Prawda) made using black isolation tape.





**Following remains** (Poznan, Poland 2023).

Installation using fresh soil and clay sculptures.

Created by Adrianna Gajdziszewska, Karolina Szwed, Zuzanna Śmigielska, Ewa Greszta, Ilya Dudarau, Diana Todorovska and Volha Piatrushka.

Inspired by the way how fossils and other unidentified subjects are exhibited in museums we decided to display the sculptures that represent „the now” in a similar way.

We invite the audience to bend down or even kneel and look at the different shapes and sizes of this communal work, to see the different approaches of identifying present time. Focus is set on the fleeting parts of life, symbols that are not easy to define on first sight and everyday objects redefined by the filter of our perception.





Four white rectangular cards are placed horizontally on the wooden floor below the mat. Each card contains text, likely labels or descriptions for the specimens on the mat. The text is too small to read clearly, but it appears to be organized into columns or sections. The cards are arranged in a row, with the first card on the left and the fourth on the right.

## **I Didn't Know Them That Well, But** (Kyiv, Ukraine 2023)

Series of drawings conceived in the frame of the war created by Bohdana Zaiats

Confronted with the difficulty of capturing these personal narratives in a fictional context, the artist turned to a more intimate approach by drawing from memory. The series centers around neighbors who tragically lost their lives in the first week of Russian full-scale invasion in the village of Katyzhanka. The artist then provides a visual testimony, a tribute to those whose stories might have otherwise been lost amid the broader narrative of the war.





## Peeling (Kyiv, Ukraine, 2023)

Video and stereo sound installation created by Vartan Markarian.

The truth is revealed through the destruction of the upper hardened layer, the layer of propaganda. Scars and cuts on the "body" cannot be corrected by imperial plastic surgery. They are visible deep in the muscles. Children, theater, performance, intermission, death...

This work is dedicated to the city of Mariupol (Ukraine). More than 20 thousand civilians have been killed and a large number of people went missing. After the occupation of the city of Mariupol, Russia built a small district - a scenery of several high-rise buildings. This is the set created to shoot the media reports for Russia, pretending to be liberators. Although the city is 98% destroyed. Today, there are over 5,000 military and 25,000 civilian hostages in Russian captivity.







**Experience pile** (Skrzetuszewo, Poland, 2023)

147 analog photos printed in color 15 x 23 cm each.

Created by Adrianna Gajdziszewska, Karolina Szwed, Zuzanna Śmigielska, Ewa Greszta, Diana Todorovska, Ilya Dudarau and Volha Piatrushka.

Seven different people with different baggage of experience and sensitivity have created communal work during 8 day long residency programme.

One of the tasks was to create a series of analog photos that would show our personal perspective by also represent "truth" as photography in its origin was considered. The installation shows a multitude of frames combined together into a large experience cloud. Feel free to dive into our imagination and explore their correlation.





Small text block, possibly a caption or note, located on the right side of the wall.



**Daily routine** (Skrzetuszewo, Poland, 2023)

Performance recorded in video. Duration: 04:35

Creation and performers: Adrianna Gajdziszewska, Karolina Szwed, Zuzanna Śmigielska, Ewa Greszta, Ilya Dudarau and Volha Piatrushka.

We went to hang out our laundry around noon. Everything went quick and painless.





## **FREQUENT WASHING SHORTENS LIVES\*** (Lednogora, Poland, 2023)

Collaborative project initiated by Karolina Szwed with the contributions of Ilya Dudarau, Adrianna Gajdziszewska, Ewa Greszta, Volha Piatrushka, Zuzanna Śmigielska and Diana Todorovska.

\*According to a Polish saying

The Lednica Lake is located on Pojezierze Gnieźnieńskie, west from Gniezno, in a place in Poland called Lednogora. Despite its ecological state being described as „moderate” by the researchers, our guide from the museum told us that it's great for preserving.

Once in a while the divers can extract the remains left by the inhabitants of the settlement, as well as some artefacts of history. On the lake there is an island (Ostrów), that's become an archaeological site. According to the tale, there is also a throne made out of gold sunken somewhere down there, at the bottom, together with Otton the Third's fleet.

During our visit we couldn't find it, but surely the water contains particles of every treasure of the lake, alongside trash and other trifles that people have thrown inside during the ages. By sunking your hands into the water you can preserve some of the cuticle on your hands, at least for a while, and leave a trace of you for the next person that tries this exercise.



**WASCHEN MACHEN DAS LEBEN?** (2015) ist ein Dokumentarfilm, der die Geschichte der Waschanlagen in Berlin zeigt. Der Film ist ein Dokumentarfilm, der die Geschichte der Waschanlagen in Berlin zeigt. Der Film ist ein Dokumentarfilm, der die Geschichte der Waschanlagen in Berlin zeigt.

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**The ferry departs every half an hour**  
(Lednogora, Poland, 2023)

Performance in Lednica Lake, registered on video,  
and stereo sound.

Performer: Diana Todorovska

Creators: Diana Todorovska, Zuzanna Śmigielka,  
Karolina, Szwed, Adrianna  
Gajdziszewska, Volha Piatrushka and Ilya Dudarau  
Filmmaker: Igor Jan Zielinski

Connection between  
Time Land People

Water as a bridge.







**Searching.. finding best route** (Skrzetuszewo, Poland, 2023)

Performance recorded in video and stereo sound.

Creator and performers: Adrianna Gajdziszewska, Ewa Greszta, Volha Piartushka, Karolina Szwed, Zuzanna Śmigielska, Diana Todorovska

Six figures dressed in dark colors following the GPS to find the Truth. Sound was created using voice generator and transcript of real device directions. The village Prawda (literally translated in English language as "Truth") is located in N 51° 37' 34.824'' E 19° 26' 56.363''.





## **Wives, Daughters, Concubines** (Ostrów Lednick, Poland, 2023)

Performance recorded in sound and documented in photography. Duration: 00:47

Voices: Adrianna Gajdziszewska, Karolina Szwed, Zuzanna Śmigielka and Diana Todorovska.

Performer: Volha Piatrushka

Photos: Uliana Glagoleva

Placing the flower crown on a bed of water and letting them float into the river was a custom for young girls to have luck in finding love. If a man got one out of the water, the girl was to expect marriage pretty soon. In other explanations the act symbolizes letting go of past worries and failures for women. The yellow flower in the middle is dziewanna (mullein) , often associated with feminine beauty and youth.

Dziewanna is also a name of slavic goddess, similar to greek Artemis, taking care of the wilderness, forests and hunts. The name itself used to mean a "girl" or "virgin". Celebrating and fetishizing womanhood as something needed for nurture and nature, but not focusing on single figures in history makes the image of a women bleak and repetitive, they loose identity. We are reading the names of women who lived alongside Mieszko the first and Bolesław Chrobry, but we didn't get to know their stories, available information mentions them only as wives, concubines or daughters. We are making this act as a tribute.





Informational text panel on the wall, containing several paragraphs of text.



## Memoria (Kyiv, Ukraine. 2023)

Puff from Kyiv, glass bottles.

Created by Fedir Khorkov

"I usually forget things I wish I could remember. Stories keep replacing themselves on top of each other in an unstoppable flow of thoughts. Sometimes, they are irreversibly erased under the influence of traumatic events. However, memories can return, they can get back to consciousness by the experience of similar events. A cycle of living thoughts and emotions. In this case, will we be able to identify those forgotten stories?"

PS: This artwork has been adjusted to this space, taking the original "puff" from Ukraine by a number of people passing it from Poltava to Chernihiv, Poznan and Berlin. This organic memory contains also this collective journey.





**"Ukrainian Truth" \ Зін-газета "Українська істина",**  
(Kyiv, Ukraine. 2023)

Fanzine-newspaper  
Created by Karina Synytsia.

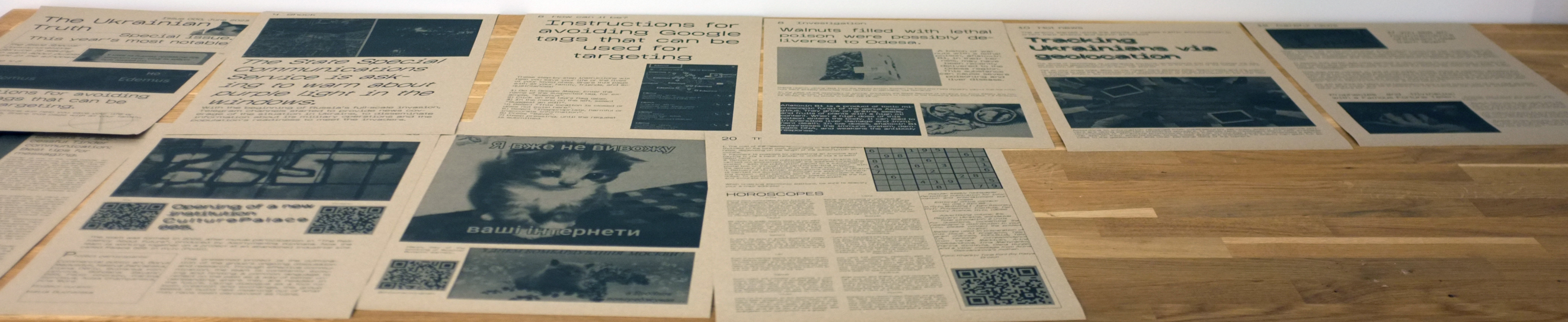
This fanzine-newspaper contains an archive of correspondence in social media, a collection of screenshots and old news that took place during the first months of Russian full-scale invasion in Ukraine.

Fake news, conspiracy theories and scary narratives that were flowing between people influencing their perceptions on how the war began, moments full of uncertainty and fear.

This work has a collaborative nature as it includes ideas and news from the other artists in the residency but also many of the illustrations were made by them: Vartan Markarian, Roksolana Dudka, Mikhail Ray, Gennadiy Che, Fedir Khorkov, Bohdana Zaiats and Anna Kravchenko.







### The Ukrainian Truth

Special Issue - This year's most notable


...ions for avoiding tags that can be targeting.

...edemius

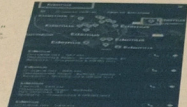
### The State Special Communications Service is asking to warn about purple light in the windows.

With the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion, these are messages started to provide news and information to the public in order to help them understand the situation and the measures to be taken.

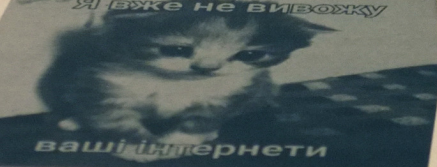
### Opening of a new institution CulturePalace





### Instructions for avoiding Google tags that can be used for targeting





Я вже не вивожу



ваші інтернети




### Walnuts filled with lethal poison were possibly delivered to Odessa.




### HOROSCOPES

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| 7 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 9 |



### Tracking Ukrainians via geolocation



...tracking Ukrainians via geolocation

**Dnipro, painting** (Kyiv, Ukraine. 2023)

Performance in the river Dnipro bank (Kyiv Ukraine).

Video and stereo sound, 2023

Collective action initiated by Fedir Khorkov and developed together with Vartan Markarian, Roksolana Dudka, Mikhail Ray, Gennadiy Che, Karina Synytsia, Bohdana Zaiats, Anna Kravchenko, Seila Fernández Arconada and the river Dnipro inhabitants.

If painting can present the reality, so the reality could be a painting?





**Artistic experiment in the Dnipro river: Border** (Kyiv, Ukraine. 2023)

Performance initiated by Vartan Markarian in the bank of the Dnipro river.

This collective action in the bank of the Dnipro river reflects on how a river connects but also could become a border. In this action the aim was to create a line, a line that connects as if water flows, however they are rocks, solids fragments of Earth. Humans looking for rocks, fragments of Earth while sharing and building together but at the same time disappears in the eye of the camera.





## Day Sleep (Kyiv, Ukraine. 2023)

Photography and sound installation.

A collaboration between Roksolana Dudka and Gennady Chernega.

The replacement of ideas in the modern world is one of the constituent concepts of "post-truth". For a modern Ukrainian, such words as "hail", "arrival", "alarm" and many others have long since departed from the banal, understandable and logical...

Being in a basement, a storage room, where minutes, hours, days pass... you contemplate "behind life", which continues right outside the bomb shelter door. In the morning or at night, during the day, when children should have a daytime sleep and hear the calm voice of a loved one reading them a fairy tale... Instead, there is now a different reality, and childhood, which will no longer be the same as before.





## **Matryoshka** (Kyiv, Ukraine. 2023)

Sculpture and performance, video.

Duration 10 min. 53 sec.

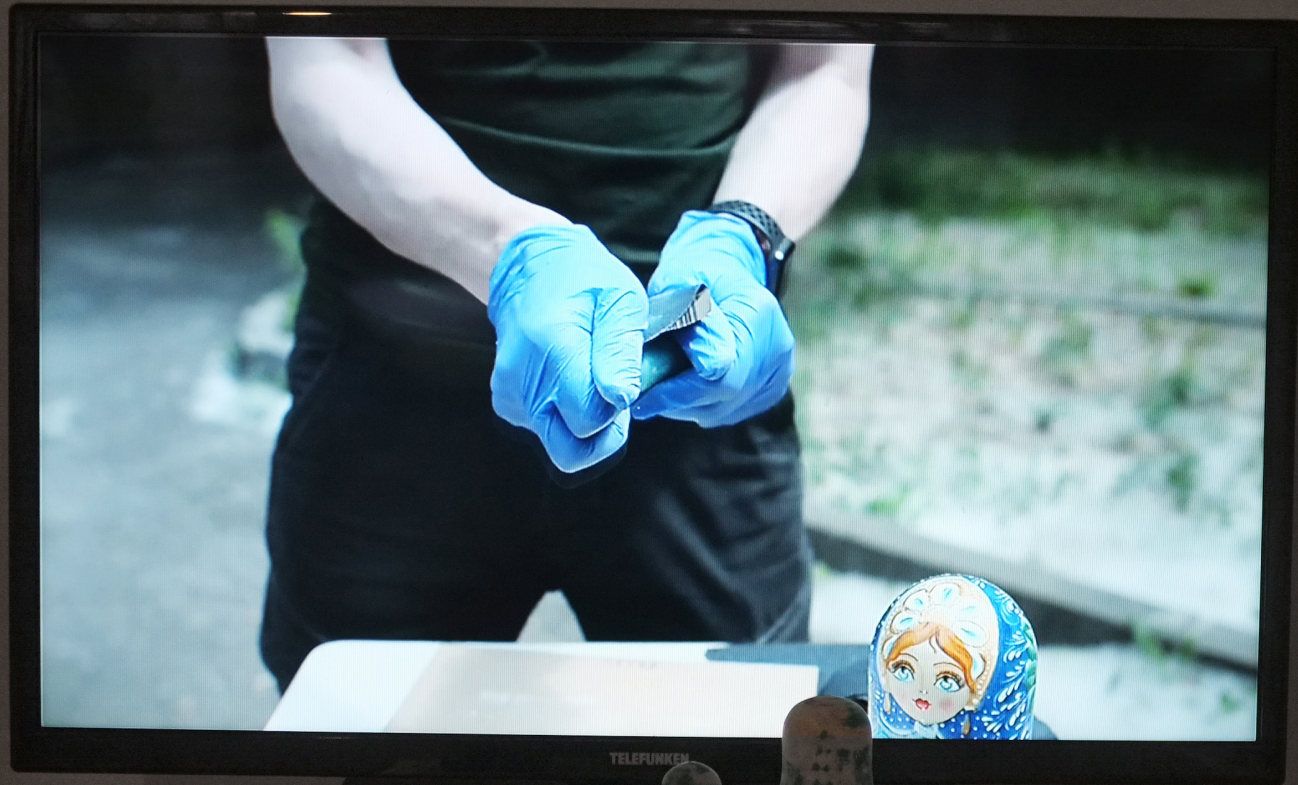
Created by Mikhail Ray

Matryoshka is a traditional Russian wooden doll painted to look like a village woman. Most likely brought from Japan. It first appeared in Russia in the 19th century, but acquired a different look and meaning. Initially, she was called Matrona, which means mother, symbolizing fertility and motherhood. The largest doll is considered the matriarch, while the smallest is called the "seed", representing the soul. Each doll inside is a layer. Each mother gives life and carries a certain legacy to the next generations. Matryoshka is a symbol of Russia.

What does it mean today? Does it give life or take it away? What legacy does it bring to humanity? Is there still a soul inside, or is her empty hollow stuffed with explosives and nails? The fake, distorted reality created by propaganda strips her personality so that she can be easily manipulated and used as a tool for destruction, murder, torture, or anything useful to the regime. With just a few easy paint strokes she is turned into pistol cartridge. Will she regain her "seed" or will she remain a zombie in the hands of the puppeteers?







**Maryvonne (2022) by David Lauder**

Installation and performance, 2022, duration 10 min, 10 min.

Maryvonne is a performance piece created and performed by David Lauder. The piece is a 10-minute work that explores the relationship between the artist and the audience. The piece is a 10-minute work that explores the relationship between the artist and the audience. The piece is a 10-minute work that explores the relationship between the artist and the audience.

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## **Post Voice** (Berlin, Germany. 2023)

Performance by Maria PÄ and Anna-Luise Oppelt

Originally created in Gerswalde for Post Truth German edition on September 2023.

Due to the constant stream of information, our heads are a mish-mash of words, events, and our own and media-imposed opinions. Some phrases are indeed well composed and stay in our heads, linked to our own thoughts and we no longer know where our thoughts end and someone else's begin. We grab information like air, breathe it in and breathe it further out.

Sometimes we don't really know: is it our own voice or someone else's voice sounding to us? Is it a Stille Post and we don't know where the voice is coming from? Our performance is an interpretation of the flows of information passing through us and coming to you.







This exhibition also contained the films of the collaborative residencies, to watch the films use the QR code or [www.posttruthproject.net/publication-and-films.html](http://www.posttruthproject.net/publication-and-films.html)

Photos and editing of this online publication by Seila  
Fernández Arconada

The process of *Post Truth? Countering Disinformation  
Narratives* has been guided and curated by  
Seila Fernández Arconada.

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#posttruthproject

Thanks to all who made it happen.

Berlin, Germany (2024)

