

# Editorial

# The Arts in Times of Crisis

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This article was written as the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic appears to be subsiding from being first reported in November 2019. Over two years, more than 500 million people around the world have been affected by the outbreak. After COVID-19 vaccine production and a large number of people vaccinated, the spread of the disease has decreased. There was a protocol to wear a mask, wash hands, and set a strict social distance in the past. To date, many European and American countries have allowed those regulations to be eased. More countries are opening up to each other, creating a brighter look in the business and tourism sectors. In times of crisis, it can be seen that during the epidemic of disease, the arts were used as a mental remedy for those who have to work from home with loneliness from having to self-isolate for years.

Earlier this year February 24, when Russia invaded Ukraine, became a global crisis alongside the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the midst of this war, Ukrainians struggled nationwide including many urban artists were affected. Various galleries in the cities of Kyiv and Lviv that were the centers of arts have shut down. Most of the artists fled the war to other countries. Ukrainian artists living outside the country, either as painters, musicians, or performers have exhibited their works in many countries reflecting the war between Russia and Ukraine by using various types of arts to raise donations to support the Ukrainian people and immigrants. There were many art exhibitions and performances organized to build morale support and to show widespread concern for Ukraine. For instance, the Ukraine World Art project (<https://artforukraine.world/>) was established by people who have been engaged in Ukrainian affairs before the war began. These groups of people dedicated their extra time and energy to implementing the Art for Ukraine charity platform that unites artists from different parts of Ukraine and from all

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over the world to help raise funds to support Ukraine. The Ukrainian Cultural Foundation hosted an online meeting with representatives of the performing arts sector on May 17th. The aim was to analyze the performing arts during the war, the impact of war, transformation, and adaptation to modern realities, and prospects for support and development under the theme: Performative art through the war prism in Ukraine: challenges and opportunities.

In terms of music, there were German artists who came together in Berlin to collect donations to support Ukraine under the theme “Sound of Peace” which was one of the largest concerts held at the Brandenburg Gate on March 20, 2022. In a time of crisis, it can be seen that any art form can be a source of comfort for those in the most vulnerable groups, such as those affected by COVID-19 and those affected by the war in Ukraine.

Though it will take a long time to restore buildings and homes caused by war, the trauma of the mental state cannot be left unattended through the passage of time because the psychological impact will result in the health and mental collapse of the victims of such wars or pandemic. In times of crisis, art is not just a tool to relieve emotional stress, it is also a tool to show sympathy and help public relations to raise funds to help those who are in difficult situations.

On behalf of the editors of the *Journal of Urban Culture Research*, I extend my condolences to all those affected. I wish all to stay safe and may the dangers of both the outbreak of disease and the war end soon in order to restore well-being and peace to the world once again.