

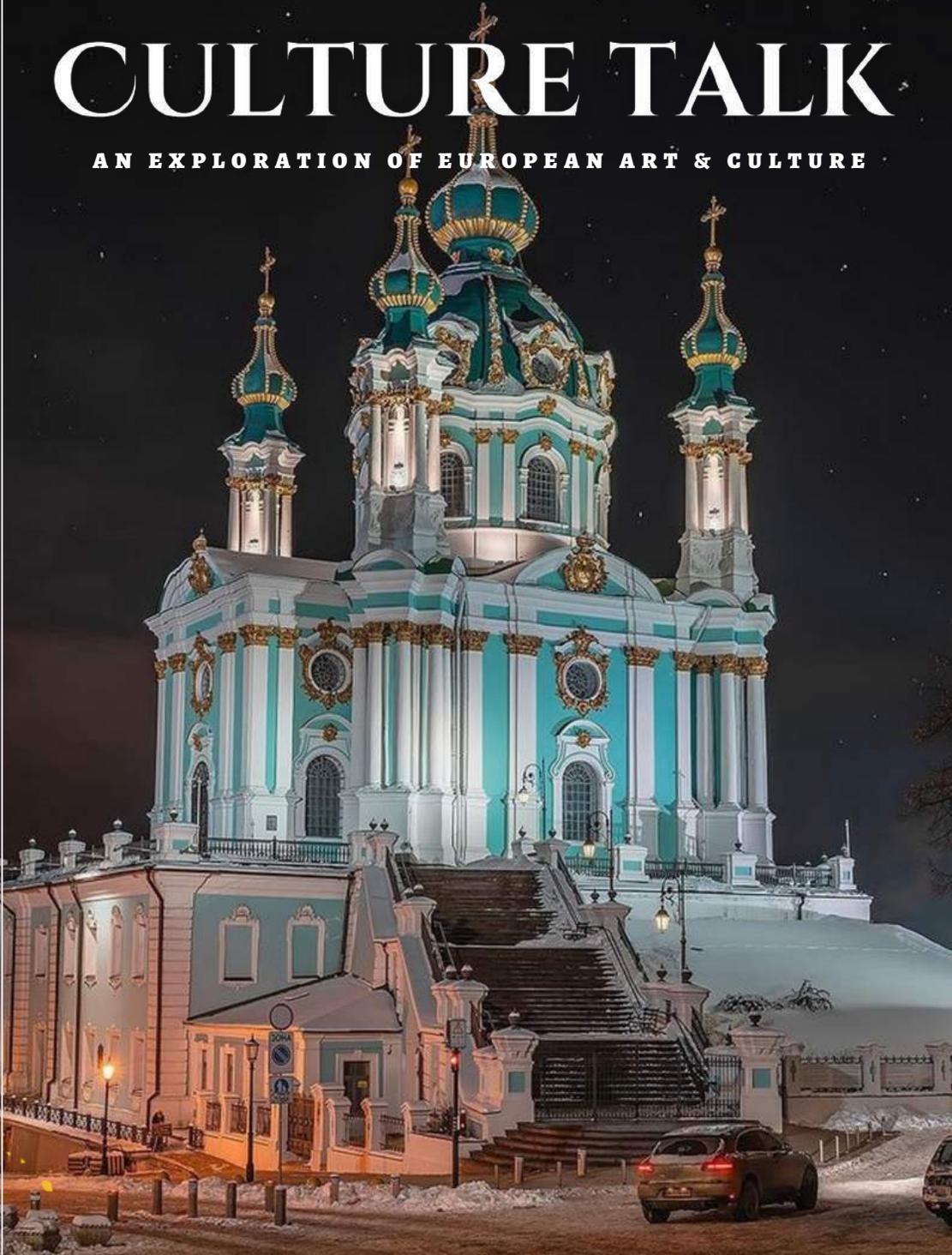
ISSUE 9

VOLUME 1

MARCH 2022

CULTURE TALK

AN EXPLORATION OF EUROPEAN ART & CULTURE

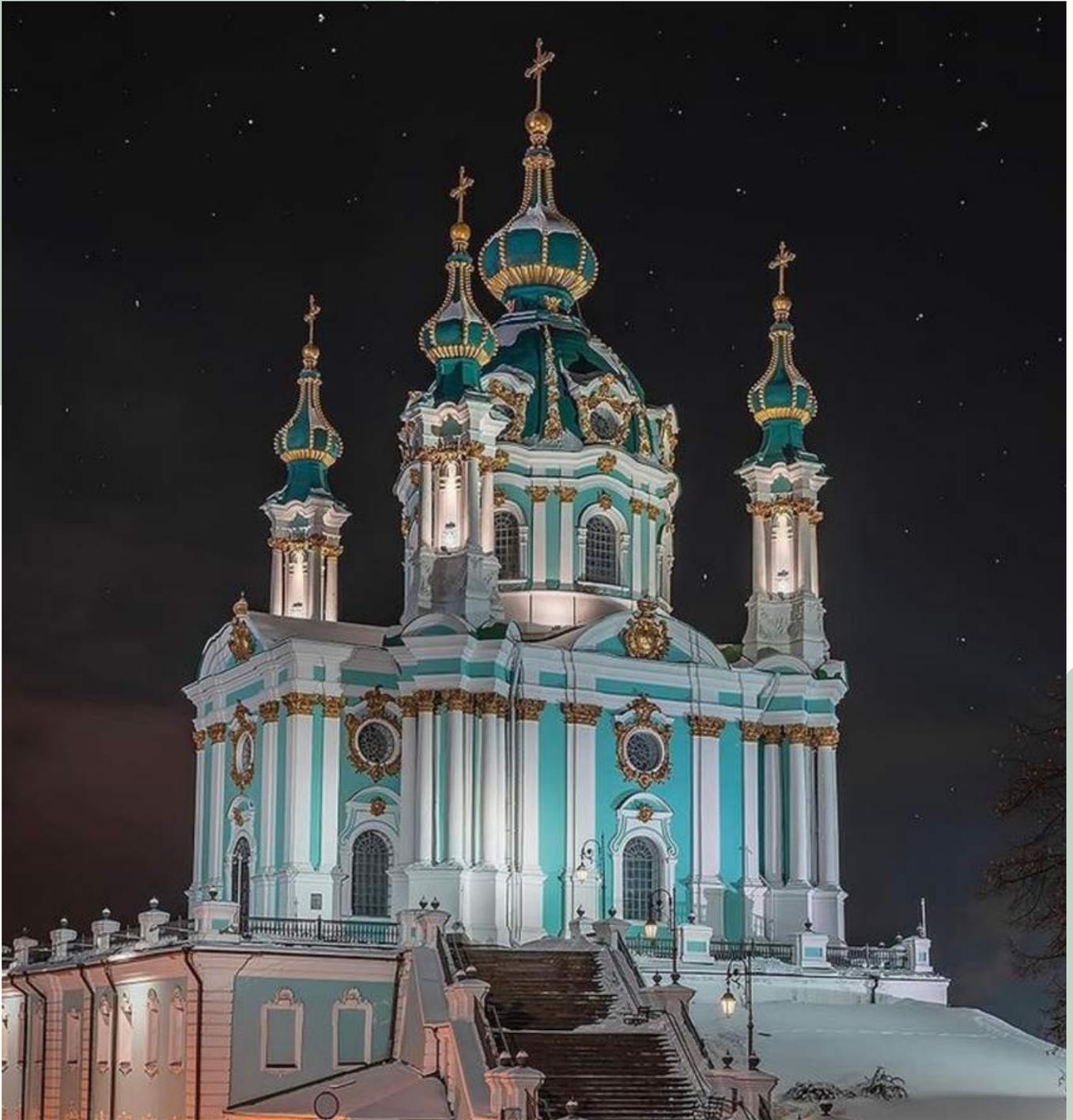


LET OUR VOICES BE HEARD

A collection of personal narratives,
global current events, and cultural
commentary

VOLUME 1:
EUROPEAN CULTURE & CURRENT EVENTS

COVER ARTIST : WAVEMEART



FIND HIS ART AT:
@WAVEMEART ON INSTAGRAM

Arthur Lahoda

Arthur Lahoda is an artist, videographer, and photographer who is based in Kyiv, Ukraine. Arthur spends his time honing in on all of his creative passions as well as showing support to his community following on Instagram. On Arthur's account, you can find photo slides of various city structures, nature landscapes, and iconic landmarks. Arthur has documented content in diverse cities, ranging from Cancun, Mexico to Seattle, Washington. Though, his consistent and inspirational support for his home base: Kyiv, Ukraine is one of the many highlights of his art. Arthur photographs the impressive decoration of gold and teal details on the St. Andrew's Church as shown on the front cover of this issue. Another photograph demonstrates the contrast of stormy, grey skies against the copper streaks that shine on the Archangel Michael statue in Kyiv. But, Arthur does not limit his creative field to only external scenery. On his various outlets, you can find street photography alongside photo sets of various models dressed in elegant fashion. And through it all, Arthur utilizes his art to convey his support for his country at this very moment - the moment of worsening Ukraine/ Russian tensions. He details his personal story of not being able to return home and how civilians of other countries can take a long reflection about the events that have been occurring. And with that, this issue seeks to not only celebrate European culture, but inform about what we can do to contribute.

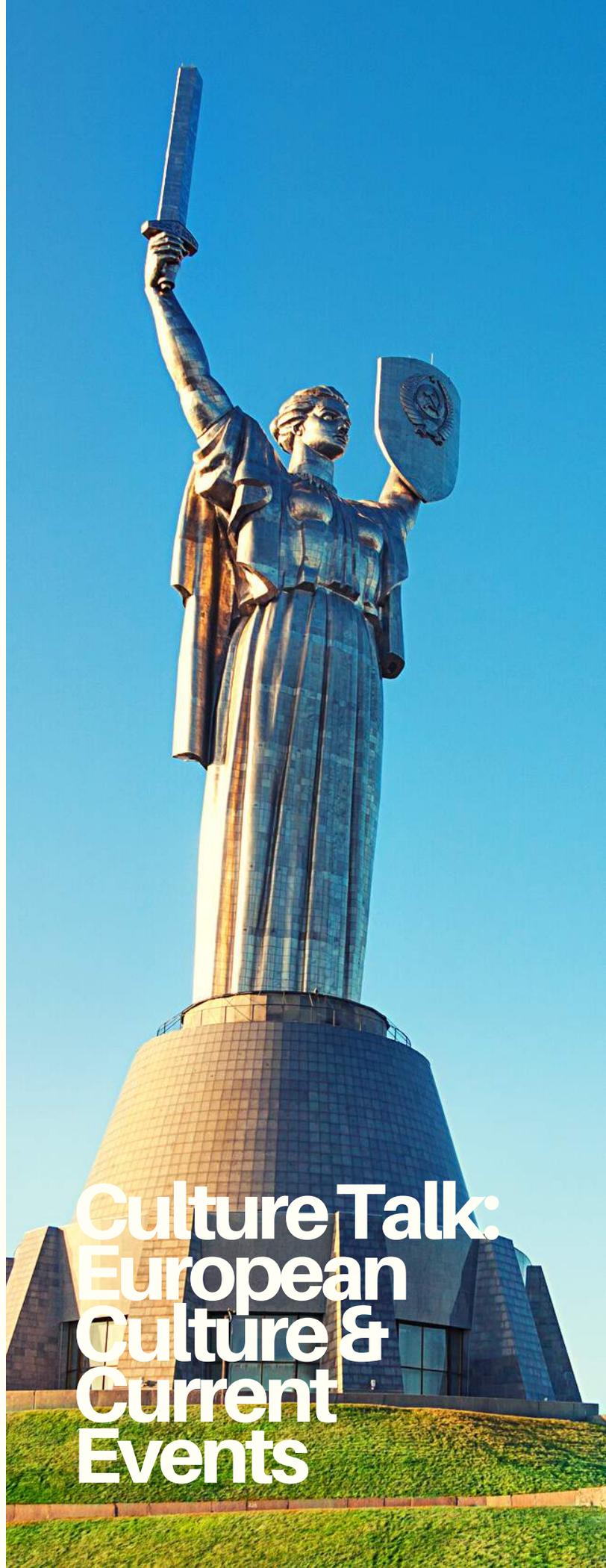
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Instagram (videography): @hiskillprod

<https://www.instagram.com/wavemeart/>



**Culture Talk:
European
Culture &
Current
Events**

March 2022

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- 6-8** "Ukraine and Russia: History for the Fight for Sovereignty"
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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

This month's edition focuses on the larger parts of Europe with the current events occurring right now. Additionally, topics discussed include Irish Heritage, with Irish Heritage Month taking place in March.

These past few weeks have brought the world together in showing solidarity and supporting the Ukrainian people. Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24th, and it still has been ongoing. In our magazine, we have included a brief timeline of events between Russia and Ukraine, Ukrainian artwork, and an interview with a Ukrainian student on their thoughts and perspectives on how the community can support the people of Ukraine.

To start the magazine off, we have Anusha Natarajan highlighting the history of Russia's desire in controlling Ukraine. She details how early on in Russian history has led to past and current Russian leaders wanting to exert control over the country. Check out the links at the end of the article on how to support Ukrainians.

Aishu Senthil details about her past experiences in living in Ireland and the hidden spots that all should check out when traveling and visiting the country. A photo collage is also incorporated with the article to provide some sort of visualization of the natural and cultural beauty of Ireland.

In the intermission, the Culture Talk podcast team presents an informational episode regarding the stakes of the Russia/Ukraine conflict and how NATO/ Geopolitics factor into it. Episode is hosted by Celeste Zuniga, edited by Kol Bakken, and supervised by Ananyaa Mahajan.

Milla Nguyen interviews Alona Dzon about the topic of American youth standing up for Ukraine and what actions our generation should take.

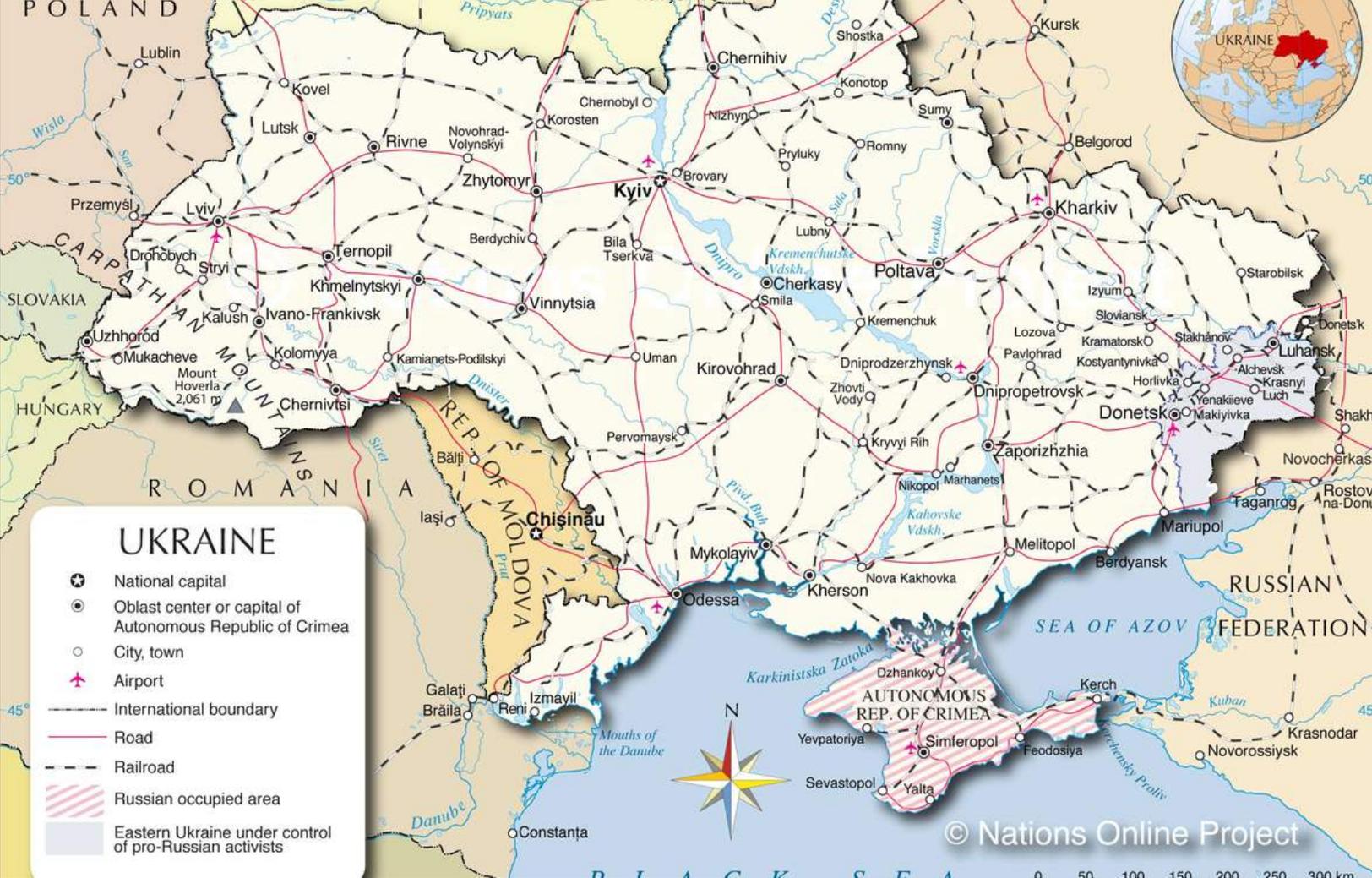
Take a walk in Europe by reading the travel journal entries by Milla Nguyen and Ananyaa Mahajan as they showcase different areas of the country and the travel recommendations they have in visiting these places.

Anusha Natarajan, Ananyaa Mahajan, and Quincy Lee delve into the biography of Ireland. Irish culture, food, music, and history are all covered in this article. Different historical events, such as the presence of Vikings and Irish Independence, are covered. Check out the evolution of Irish music and learn more about the origin of potatoes.

Towards the end of Issue 09, allow yourself to take in the variety of artwork created by diverse European artists all over the world, from Kyiv, Ukraine to Surrey, United Kingdom.

Despite being in another part of the world, it is important to educate and learn about current events as well as helping those in need as an international community. In this issue, we cover a variety of topics and feature a diverse selection of European art. With that, Issue 09 marks the conclusion of Volume 1 (Issues 1-9).

--- Anusha Natarajan, & Milla Nguyen



PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE:

UKRAINE AND RUSSIA: HISTORY FOR THE FIGHT OF SOVEREIGNTY

BY: ANUSHA NATARAJAN

February 12th: Reports are circulating that Russia is going to invade Ukraine in the next couple of weeks. Troop deployments have increased and artillery tests are being conducted in the border between the two countries.

March 19th: Russia declared a special operation in trying to denazify Ukraine on February 24th after the end of the Winter Olympics. President Volodymyr Zelensky declared martial law immediately and instructed that all men between ages 18-60 are to stay and defend the country. Russia has so far gained control over little traces of the East and Southern parts of Ukraine. Its future steps are to capture Odessa, which borders the Black Sea, and large cities, such as Kyiv and Kharkiv. Russia is trying to surround Ukraine so that it will be harder for reinforcements and other equipment to move in and out of the country. Ukraine is no stranger to Russia's aggression as it has undergone constant conflict and war with Russia throughout history.

Russians have made few advances in recent days



Source: Institute for the Study of War (21:00 GMT 18 March)

BBC

Here are some key historical instances of Russia/Ukraine conflicts.

1) Russian Empire

Russia was once a massive empire that extended from the Baltic Sea into Central and East Asia. It ruled the region for a little over 200 years, marking its end after World War II. The empire began with the reign of Peter the Great, which is marked with heavy investments in commercialization and industrialization. Russia was divided up into eight provinces under the reign of Peter the Great: Moscow, Ingria, Kiev, Smolensk, Arkhangel'sk, Kazan', Azov, and Siberia. Catherine the Great was another well known monarch that implemented domestic reforms in the social and economic fields. She was known to localize the kingdom by increasing the number of provinces from eight to fifty. The Russian Empire included Ukraine towards the late 1700s. A century later, nationalists movements increased among the Ukrainians, calling for freedom and independence.

The Russians were trying to suppress the efforts to Ukrainians. Russians have historically been interested in the Crimea region for quite some time. In 1783, it annexed the Crimean Khanate into its empire.

2) Soviet Union

After the end of World War I, Ukrainians were looking forward to gaining independence and wanting to start their own republic. However, Russia had their own aspirations and wanted to control Ukraine furthermore. Ukraine was incorporated in to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1922 and lasted until 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed. Vladimir Lenin enacted New Economic Policy (NEP) to help improve the economy that the region had suffered from the World War I. Ukrainians were still able to practice their culture and language, with that being reversed later in the 1930s when Joseph Stalin comes into power. In the 1930s, a global depression swept across the world. The collectivization policies of the Soviet Union impacted ethnic Ukrainians, which led to million of Ukrainians perishing away. 1.5 million .



Ukrainian Jewish people lost their lives in the Holocaust in the 1940s. When Nikita Khrushchev came into power, he gave back the Crimean region to the Ukrainians in 1954. In Ukraine, a nationalist surge began to increase with protests calling for independence in the 1970s.

3) 2014: Annexation of Crimea

Shortly after the Winter Olympics of 2014, Russia arrived in Crimea, which was part of Ukraine, and took control of the region. On March 21st, Russian Duma passes a bill, which declares that Crimea is now a recognized state of the Russian Federation. The motivation behind annexing Crimea was because the Russian government believed that the people of Crimea are ethnically Russian and that the people living there support the Russian government and its people. The region has also been part of the Russian empire since 1783. It was only in 1954 that Crimea was given to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.



In 2008, Russia began to distribute Russian passports to the people in Crimea, sparking international concern and outrage. This attack received worldwide attention with Russia being kicked out of the G8, which is now the G7. World leaders around the world placed sanction on Russia. As a result, the ruble decreased in value. Currently, the U.S., Europe, and other countries have imposed sanctions towards Russia and its oligarchs. Large companies, such as McDonalds and Visa, have shut down their operations in the country.

Here are some links on how you can help in providing aid for the Ukrainian people.

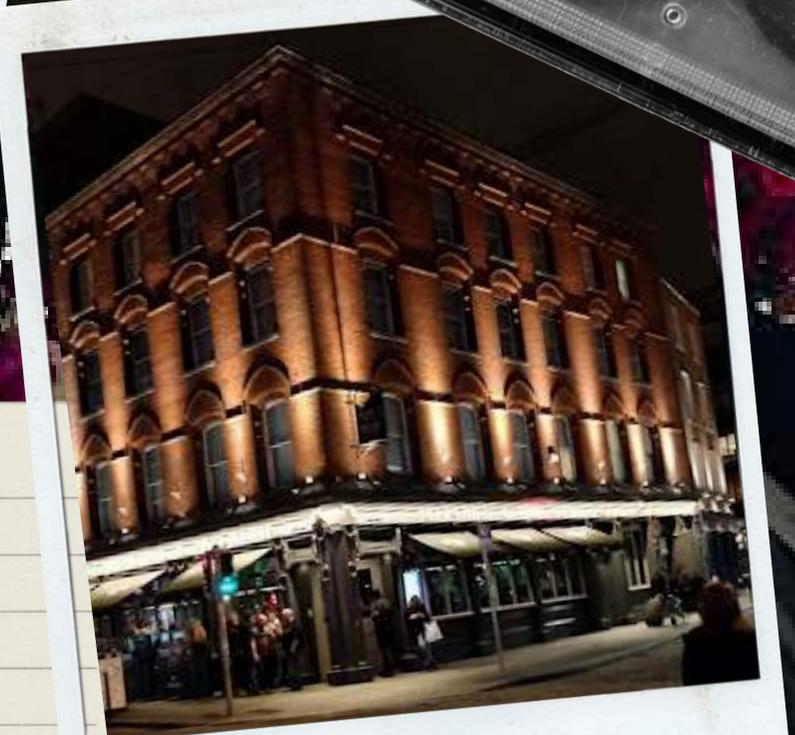
*Links:

- <https://voices.org.ua/en/>
- https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=FAXDgR7CFB4SJ
- https://www.liqpay.ua/uk/checkout/card/checkout_1645734781819461_24118451_gy1mAyoR8FMLcpgcsRrh
- <https://kyivindependent.com/>
- <https://kse.ua/support/donation>

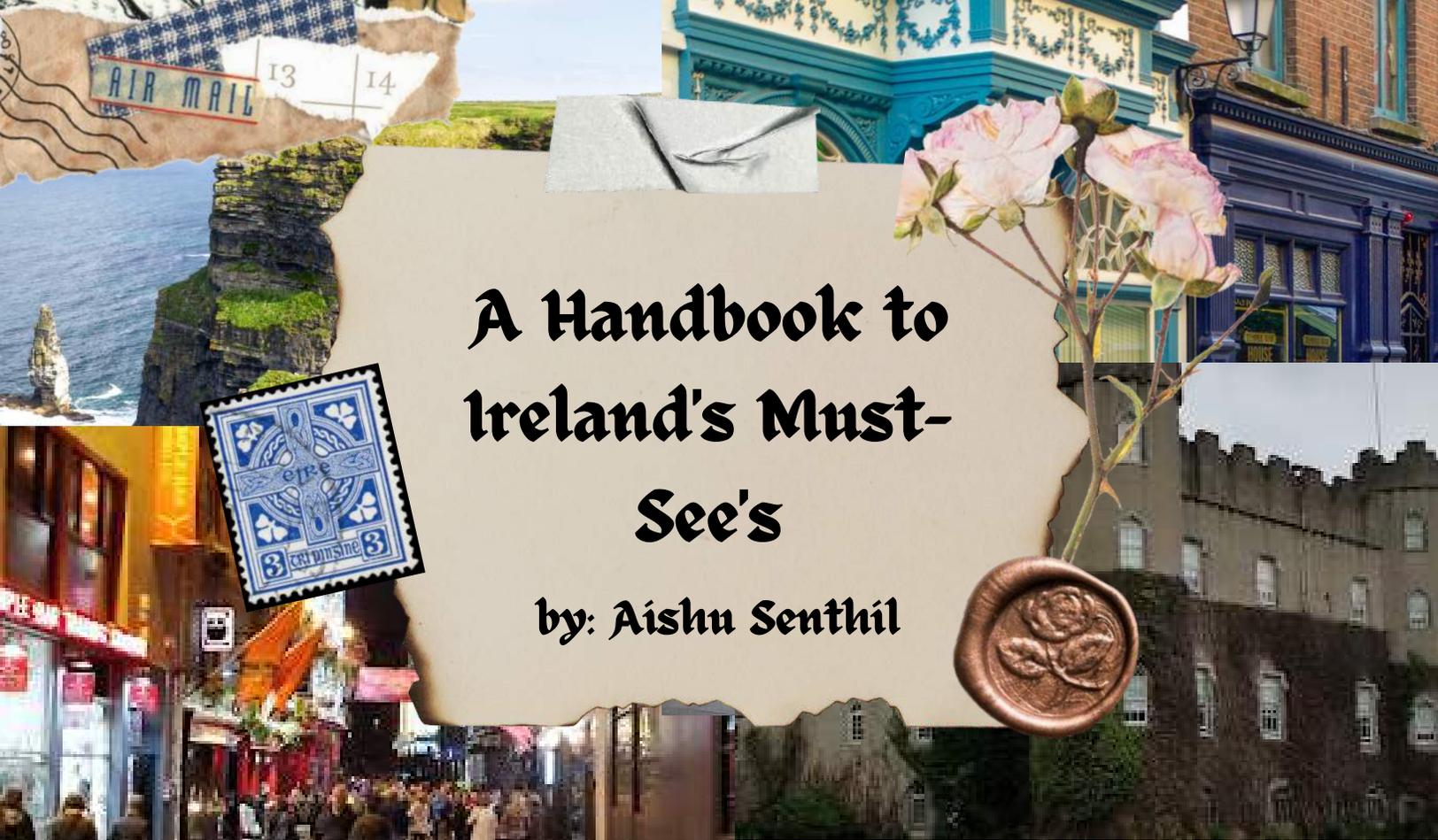


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*https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/ukraines-protests-should-end-with-a-negotiated-settlement/2013/12/09/4860a9fc-60fc-11e3-8beb-3f9a9942850f_story.html



photos by Aishu Senthil
Exploring Ireland



A Handbook to Ireland's Must- See's

by: Aishu Senthil

Ireland is often an underestimated European country to visit. However, this beautiful, green country can offer many surprises to tourists with less knowledge of the country, as long as they know where to look. Hence, this article will highlight the best tourist spots to visit in Ireland based on my experience living there for two years. Since this article is only going to focus on destinations to visit specifically in the Republic of Ireland, I will not touch on tourist destinations in Northern Ireland*, such as the well known Giant's Causeway.

One of the most well-known top spots to visit on a trip to Ireland is Temple Bar. Located in the city center of the capital, Dublin, it is a lively night time tourist attraction hosting many pubs, cafes and restaurants, and is a popular weekend night hangout for citizens and tourists alike. For those over the age of 18 (the legal drinking age in Ireland), the pubs in Temple Bar are some of the best in town to relax or celebrate. If you are under

the age of 18, you can still enjoy the variety of restaurants in the area. A few blocks down from Temple Bar is the many shopping streets of Dublin, including O'Connell street and Grafton street. These shopping streets have a wide variety of stores, and are the perfect place to shop for souvenirs, as well as anything else your heart desires. However, these streets become a must-see destination during Christmas time, when the streets are decorated with dazzling lights and marvelous decorations that truly sing the festive spirit.

Ireland's most captivating aspect is the incredible natural scenery it hosts. A prime example is Glendalough. From the glimmering Glendalough Upper and Lower lakes to the lush, vibrant greenery surrounding them, the various hikes of Glendalough appeal to all ages and interests. The picture opportunities at Glendalough are unmissable, and it certainly helps that Glendalough is only an hour commute from Dublin's city center. Another recognized natural attraction is the Bray-Greystones cliff walk.

Starting from Bray Promenade in southern Dublin, this walk along the Bray Head provides incredible views of the Dublin Sea, natural forests and, if you are lucky, seals too. This 4.5 mile walk is one of the hidden gems of Ireland, and definitely worth visiting if you have the time.

Another fascinating natural attraction is the Powerscourt waterfalls. These waterfalls, a mere 45 minutes from Dublin, are a popular backdrop for photos, but it is also a beautiful place for a hike or simply to enjoy the greenery or roast a barbecue next to the peaceful waterfall. The Powerscourt Garden is a five minute walk from the waterfalls, and is another serene location to visit while you are in the area. This garden is host to a variety of plants and flowers, and a wonderful place to go for botany enthusiasts.

If you are looking for a more authentic Irish experience, for instance to witness more traditional Irish cultures and accents, then the East is the place to go. There are many noteworthy tourist destinations in the East. One such example is Kylemore Abbey. Located about an hour and a half from Galway (another popular city in Ireland), this scenic lake and castle is a timeless, peaceful setting to visit. Ireland is known for the many incredible stone-built castles. This castle is one of the best in the country, and is a great place to visit if you happen to travel to the east coast of Ireland. Another iconic destination is the Cliffs of Moher. These cliffs are not only a popular tourist attraction in Ireland, but a staple during a visit to Ireland. These folds of cliffs provide a long, beautiful hike along the edge of the cliff sandwiched between the countryside and the sea.

However, a fair warning to those interested in hiking along the Cliffs of Moher: bundle up warm, because it is incredibly windy at the top of the cliffs.

As someone who has been to all of these destinations and more in Ireland, one insider tip I definitely recommend is this: Look at the weather forecast before going to these destinations. It can be very rainy and cold in Ireland, and the trip can become very unpleasant without the right gear or having to trudge through rain, especially since the majority of noteworthy tourist destinations are outside.

Ireland is truly an incredible yet underestimated European country to visit. In my opinion, the lush greenery and peaceful serenity gives off a whimsical aura, and hopefully this guide is your motivation to make a trip to see all the amazing hidden gems this country has to offer.

INTERMISSION:

**THIS
IS
US**

**EPISODE 9:
GEOPOLITICS,
UKRAINE, &
RUSSIA**

**A PODCAST
PRESENTED BY CULTURE TALK**

**HOSTED BY: CELESTE ZUNIGA
EDITED BY: KOL BAKKEN
SUPERVISED BY: ANANYAA MAHAJAN**

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LET OUR VOICES BE HEARD

STANDING WITH UKRAINE

AN INTERVIEW WITH ALONA DZON
BY MILLA NGUYEN

This interview encourages readers to reflect, discuss, and raise awareness to the ongoing conflict of Russian aggression enforced upon the Ukrainian people/ territories. Today, I had the opportunity to interview Alona Dzon on her thoughts about raising our voices, as well as doing the best we can to contribute.

Alona Dzon is a sophomore at Arizona State University studying Business with a concentration in Global Politics. She is an international student from Kyiv, Ukraine and a part of Barrett The Honors College. In addition to her classes, she is a Community Assistant at University Housing, a member of the Business Ambassadors organization, and a research assistant at Melikian Center of Russian, Eurasian, and Eastern European Studies.

[\[Question 1: So, from my understanding, the situation in Ukraine is one that is the center of the world right now. War is unpredictable. But, you spent your day at a protest, what were your thoughts about the cause? \(Milla Nguyen\)\]](#)



[Alona Dzon]: The protest was organized in partnership with different organizations such as the St. Mary's Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Phoenix, the Phoenix Branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), and the Phoenix Branch of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

Not long after the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine started, I started to see my friends from Ukraine posting information about similar protests all around the world. I wanted to show my support by attending a rally, so I started to search for demonstrations in Phoenix. I couldn't find much detailed information until I got an email from The Melikian Center at ASU, which sent me details about the time and place where supporters would come together to hold a peaceful march in support of Ukraine's territorial integrity.

I was surprised to see such a big number of people during the event. I met a lot of people from Ukraine, the U.S., and other countries, who were all there to protest against the war. I felt a lot of support both from my friends and strangers during the march. We were singing, chanting, and spreading awareness of the problem and ways to help.

After the protest, I felt inspired to continue helping people affected by the war. I am now associated with a Ukrainian organization that supplies humanitarian aid to the country. I am collecting donations in the U.S. and making international transfers to the organization. International transactions usually include fees, which make small donations unreasonable. That is why I started to collect these donations and to make bi-weekly transfers to the organization. I also connected with other Ukrainian students at ASU. Together, we plan events and share initiatives that can make a difference during these hard times.

[\[Question 2: Even though we are ASU students who are based in the USA, far away from Ukraine, why do you believe standing up for a cause like this sends a message? Do you encourage others to get out there and speak up? \(Milla Nguyen\)\]](#)

[Alona Dzon]: Yes! I highly encourage everyone to speak up on the situation. It is our responsibility to let the people in power know that we are concerned about the situation and make them take action toward addressing it. Such actions can include increasing sanctions, providing material help to the country, and encouraging diplomatic ways of solving the problem. Even though the first Russian invasion of Ukraine happened in 2014, the country has been under full-scale attacks for the past month. I understand that for the past month, many people who were not directly affected by the conflict got tired of this news. However, this is what my family is experiencing every day, and it is highly important to not let the situation quiet down. Unfortunately, the Russian government is doing a good job of spreading disinformation. They refer to the invasion of Ukraine as the "demilitarization and de-Nazification" of the country. It is important to keep spreading the awareness of what is actually happening in Ukraine, and not letting these lies develop further.

[\[Question 3: As a member of Gen Z, war is something that older generations have seen happen- do you think that Gen Z should pay attention to these events more? \(Milla Nguyen\)\]](#)

[Alona Dzon]: My great-grandmother Galina was a part of military forces during World War II. Every time my family visited her, she would talk about how lucky we were to not experience the horror she had to see. Unfortunately, you never appreciate peace until you lose it. While Gen Z has seen multiple .military attacks in the 21st century, such as

events in Georgia, Syria, or Afghanistan, this is the first invasion of a sovereign country on such a large scale. I think Gen Z should understand that Putin's decision to attack Ukraine was a step back in the development of democratic values in the world. As a generation, who is currently at the beginning of their careers, they should understand that the world still lacks strong leaders and diplomats. Today, the task for Gen Z would be to think critically about the information they receive. Our generation gets most of the news from social media, which is full of fake information. It is highly important to check sources and apply critical thinking to avoid being a victim of Russian propaganda.

It lacks strong leaders and diplomats. Today, the task for Gen Z would be to think critically about the information they receive. Our generation gets most of the news from social media, which is full of fake information. It is highly important to check sources and apply critical thinking to avoid being a victim of Russian propaganda.

[\[Question 4: Do you have any last remarks that you want to tell the audience? What is the message that you want to convey with your own voice? \(Milla Nguyen\)\]](#)

[Alona Dzon]: As an international student from Ukraine, whose family is still at the heart of military attacks, I have an immediate interest in the protection of Ukraine and its democratic values. However, I want the audience to understand that this invasion is not only a threat to Ukraine but also every democratic country in the world. If we let Putin take over a sovereign country in the 21st century, then this type of aggression will be encouraged in the future. If this happens, we might

witness many other attacks from dictatorships on democratic values. We can keep fighting before we see this happen to other countries. Let's stop it before it's too late!

Follow Alona Dzon on her efforts to create change.

Instagram:
@dzonalon

credits to: Stormy Light @stormyella for Interview Set-up.



*The Travel Diaries: narrated by
Ananyaa Mahajan and Milla Nguyen*



SPAIN, ITALY, CINQUE TERRE, AND SOMEWHERE OUT THERE...

BY: MILLA NGUYEN

One of my favorite childhood memories is the moment when my parents told my sister and I we were going to vacation in Europe for a summer. At the mere age of 12, I would be going to cities that I didn't know I dreamed of going to. This was the age where social media, phones, and constant concern if photos were edited correctly weren't really a thing. And now, I sit here writing this, reminiscing over the carefree days of being a kid, I can see I didn't cherish it as much as I should have then. What I do know is that at 12, I wanted to seek adventure in the most dramatic sense. The first stop on our trip was Spain - Barcelona specifically. Barcelona was one of the cities where I felt comfort even though it wasn't home. I vividly remember strolling through the food courts and farmers

market with my sister. We sampled the freshest of fruit juices, ham and cheese sandwiches, and deserts that fit in the size of my palm. A popular concept there was "tapas" meaning (A tapa is an appetizer or snack in Spanish cuisine.) You would enter an eatery where the cashier would serve you a customized tapas: typically olives, cheese, sardines, fruits, potatoes, and other vegetables served on a toasted piece of bread. Tapas also meant side dishes: fries with mayo and ketchup drizzled over, bacon coated in sugar, etc. Basically, tapas was meant to be consumed in small increments as you got more hungry without over eating. While this was wildly delicious to my young taste buds, the food wasn't the only thing special about Barcelona. The sights were stunning, the La Sagrada Familia Church wasn't even completed when I saw it.



The towering heights were decorated with intricate scenes- literal sculptures of people jumping out at you as if they were cemented into the walls of the church. The architect that designed this church was Antoni Gaudí. Even until this day, the church is maintained and constructed on. The stained glass windows shined with a vast array of colors, casting small glows on the floor. If you had put your hand to the light, the color would cast right through your skin. In the summer, tours are ran through the church and the history of Gaudi. Barcelona was a city where people were kind to tourists too. The atmosphere of Barcelona was welcoming, comforting, and gave you a taste of life in Spain.

One core stop on the trip was the Trevi Fountain in Rome, Italy. Seeing pictures of the fountain in books, i never really registered that I would be standing in front of it one day. My dad had handed my a quarter in which I dropped down the sewer drain by accident. With a small smile and serious glint in his eye, he handed me a second quarter (one that was rusty) before telling me to make a wish. To be honest, I don't remember what I wished for. Though, I recall it was one of my favorite days of the summer. We had ice-cream on the cobblestone streets, saw the Coliseum/ the Pantheon, and stayed in hotels that were the size of 3 closets put together. We stopped by cities such as Florence and Venice as well. I remember the vivid imagery of running through the dark alleys of Venice, chasing my sister at night. We danced in a plaza that was lit with golden lampposts, street musicians wondering if we were a pair of drunk Americans. I swear, we weren't. Watching lovers float down in gondolas on the Venice Canal at night from the window was something I'll never forget. The wind brushed my face, the lights started to blur a little, but I couldn't forget the view of the moon on the water.

In the morning, we'd be leaving for Cinque Terre (a village set on a high cliff (Italia Riviera, Liguria)),. The thing about traveling through Europe is the fast-paced change in scenery. We had to use a boat to get to Cinque Terre, a cliff-side village of the coast in Italy. All of the houses and hotels were a cube shape, resting there for many centuries. The top of the cliff overlooked the cerulean waves of the ocean. We stayed in a hotel where I would help the resort owner take care of a herd



of cats that just wandered around the city. In Europe, it's common for pets to be roaming in the open. We'd hike the cliffs in the afternoon, stopping for lunch at a local Italian cafe that resembled France, the tables lined with velvet and pink ribbons. The interior walls were painted in a sunny yellow, pictures of families and customers hung up. There, I had the best Tiramisu of my life. I had plenty of Tiramisu before the trip, but never like that. I mean, the layers of cream, coffee buttercream, and cake made my brain stutter. The pasta- I think it was a hazelnut cream-cheese stuffed shell was some of the best food I ever had, period. In Cinque Terre, my parents, sister and I spent the time to relax. We would sunbathe on the balcony, sit in the lounge and read, or hike. It was our restful period before a few more stops and then onwards back home.

And from there, my family and I had continued through our trip, stopping by cities like Avignon, France, Murano, Venice, Les Baux-de-Provence, etc. After returning home to Arizona, the memories in Europe were some of my favorites made that summer.



LONDON MEMORIES

BY: ANANYAA MAHAJAN

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

I've had the pleasure of visiting London twice in my life, once in the summer of 2014 and the again in the winter of 2019. I'll combine both travels as I saw different things both times!

This is the view of the River Thames and the London Bridge from my 2014 trip. My family took a guided tour through Europe and London was our first stop. We were in London for 2-3 days with the tour and then came back on our own after the tour ended for a week or so. This picture was taken on the tour on a double-decker bus ride we took through the city. The bus ride was helpful as we were able to see many places of the city and mark on the map where we wanted to come back again and of course, the London Bridge was one we had to come back too. I mean look at this beautiful view!



This picture was also taken on my 2014 trip. On this day, we went to the London Eye and this picture is the view of Parliament from the London Eye. The London Eye is a large Ferris Wheel in the center of the city and each compartment gives you a stunning view of the city! This was a precious experience my family and I. It was at this moment where we fell in love with the city.



LONDON MEMORIES



Another picture taken in 2014 at the Lords Cricket Stadium! Now if you're a Cricket fan like my family is, Lords is a must on your trip! We spent an entire morning at Lords. My parents and the others in the tour group were living their best life! We were able to see the grounds, the dressing rooms and places where the team practiced.

Now I'm moving on to my 2019 adventure in London! Our 2014 trip made us fall in love with the city, so we knew we had to come back! We came back in a different season too (winter) so we saw London with a new view. Because in our 2014 trip, we hit all the tourist and big landmarks. My parents and I decided to enjoy the city as if we were living there so we could get a better feel for it. These pictures were taken in Trafalgar's Square where city was hosting a lovely Christmas Market! We walked through the square, took pictures, and enjoyed the market . There, we ate some delicious food as well! There was a bookstore across the street which is where we hid out from the rain and we people watched through the window of the café upstairs. I remember this day very vividly and it holds such a special place in my heart.



Last but not least, this picture was taken again in my 2019 trip and as big Potterheads (Harry Potter fans), my family and I felt like we should see Harry Potter and the Cursed Child in action! After seeing all the landmarks, we decided to grab dinner and a show. This was another memorable day as we just relaxed and enjoyed the show, walked around the

the theater district and basked in historical beauty as the district was filled with restaurants that were around back in the 1900s.

We hope you took away some insight from this memoir and we hope that if you even plan on traveling to Italy or London, this recap can help you find new places to visit! We both are fans of finding the hidden gems of places and the ones that aren't on the tourist guides as every city has such beautiful places that aren't always highlighted. We encourage you all to travel the world and find your niches in the cities you visit and let us know what you enjoy about these places!





IRELAND IN A NUTSHELL

WRITTEN BY ANUSHA NATARAJAN,
ANANYAA MAHAJAN & QUINCY LEE

Culture is such an important part of everyone's lives and is one we at Culture Talk strive to educate and celebrate. Ireland is a country filled with beautiful cultures and to us, the best way to showcase culture is through food, music and art. This piece will do a deep dive into the 3 categories of culture and we hope that we are able to share a section of the beautiful culture of Ireland!

Music by Ananyaa Mahajan and Anusha Natarajan

Music is certainly one of the most important ways to get integrated into a culture and Irish culture is no different! As with all cultural music, there are different types of music that define a culture. Initially, Irish music first began as an oral tradition by passing the tunes onto future generations.

There is Irish traditional music which is also known as Irish folk music and uses 10 instruments to compose including the fiddle. Irish folk music is typically used for Irish folk dancing and has a very prominent call and response technique with the composition and dancing.

There are two types of singing songs in Irish folk music - Sean-nós and Caoineadh songs. Sean-nós is usually performed solo with the occasional duet. This is the style that is most closely associated with traditional music. Caoineadh songs are meant to signify sorrow and pain and are sung at funerals. Traditional music also incorporates the Irish flute, the harp, pipes, and the Bodhrán. Festivals are large in Ireland. The Music Festival of Ireland attracts over 400,000 people from around the world to engage and listen to music that has been around for over 2,000 years. Another large music festival that usually takes place in September is the Electric Picnic. It is one of the largest festivals in the country that started in 2004. It is an arts and music festival that brings in several musical talents to headline and perform.

Dance by Ananyaa Mahajan

Dancing is a beautiful part of Irish culture. There are numerous different dances that come with Irish culture but the most prominent one would have to

be the Irish stepdance. The form of dance originated in the 17-18th century and has slowly evolved to the modern day stepdance we know today. The prominent feature of the stepdance is loose yet strong arms by the side and the sound the toes makes.

Dancing is such a beautiful art piece and one Ireland is very proud of in general. Irish dancing has had many influences from outside the country as well as influenced other cultures with their unique dance form. Another popular dance is called the Quadrille. The Quadrille is one that was brought to Ireland by various travelers around the 18th and 19th century and was typically performed at balls and cotillions. The form itself is a square dance during which 4 couples or 8 people total are involved. Light flute music accompanies the dance and each square dance group does their own dance within the overall dance.

The fashion that accompanied dancing was very important to the overall look of dancing. If you are an audience member or a dancer, it is clear that clothing is meant to accentuate the form. For Irish dancing, women usually wear a simple blouse with long skirts whereas men wear a traditional shirt and a traditional kilt. For other Irish dancing forms, women wear shorter, colorful dresses (a note - their arms are usually more covered) and men wear simple pants and shirts but with a colorful sash tied around their waist to match the women. Irish dancers have two options of specific shoes that they wear they dance which are - hard shoes and soft shoes. There are flat shoes with a metal base which help with the simple and graceful movements but also help accentuate the steps (very useful for clogging).

Food by Anusha Natarajan

Irish cuisine is very diverse in taste and flavors. Dishes have evolved over time with the influence from other European neighbors, such as the Vikings and British.

Irish cuisine is broken up into three key components: meat, vegetables, and potatoes. The potatoes were introduced to the country in the 16th century. The condition of the land was beneficial for the crops, which led to an increase in potato planting and cultivation. It was also very affordable to grow and maintain, requiring not as much equipment in managing the plots. However, the over reliance on potatoes led to the Potato Famine of 1845-49, which led to the Irish emigrating out of Ireland and moving to the United States. When cooking potatoes for Irish dishes, the skin is left on rather than it being peeled. In the 16th century, Irish culture included more meat and dairy with the introduction of cattle. Cattle proved to be a vital asset for Irish cuisine as it provided a source of protein for meat, but also a source of dairy. As being an island, Irish cuisine also includes quite a bit of seafood, such as oysters, crabs, and lobsters.

Not only is Ireland known for its crop staples and meat, their drinks are quite famous too. Guinness is an ale made from a malt and barley. It first originated in 1759, and is now one of the most well known ale brands in the world.

Conclusion

So there you have it, a small insight into the beautiful culture of Ireland. While doing the research for Irish culture, we both realized a richness to the history of Ireland and how the country maintains and grows its roots through music, dance and food. The depth of culture that is easily accessible to us is wonderful as we were able to understand aspects of Irish culture we didn't previously know about and we hope to one day be able to visit this country and gain a first hand experience!

Irish History by Quincy Lee

The Republic of Ireland (Capital: Dublin) is a nation located on the island that sits in the North Atlantic sea just west of Great Britain (the island home to England, Scotland, and Wales). Despite its close proximity to the United Kingdom, the country is not under British rule but the northern region of the island, Northern Ireland (Capital: Belfast) is a part of the United Kingdom, a reality that has created a complex geopolitical relationship in this region.

Ireland's climate is mild and generally temperate, avoiding any extreme temperatures. Moreover, the region is prone to frequent rainfall and often windy as it sits on the sea. Much of the geography is low-lying mountains and plains. In the Middle Ages, the country was mostly woodland but there was large-scale deforestation during Oliver Cromwell's rule that drastically changed this fact: by 1900, forestry only made up 1% of total land usage. In an effort to combat climate change and restore the nation to its original ecological glory, policymakers have set a goal to plant 440 million trees by 2040.

Financially speaking, Ireland has a mixed economy with both private-owned and state-operated industries. For instance, railroad transport and health insurance are chiefly managed by the government while entrepreneurs are free to operate their own business for other sectors of the economy. Despite England's previous control of the nation's economy, the Republic of Ireland does not use the pound (£) and instead began using the euro (€) in 2002 after joining the European Union in 1973. The official language of the Republic of Ireland is Irish although English is the predominant language as the Irish language was largely suppressed during the British rule of the country.

Roman Catholicism is the dominant religion in Ireland and although the religion has played a significant social and political role throughout the country's history, religious freedom is a right granted to all citizens in the Constitution. The culture of Ireland is one that has been shaped by ancient peoples with strong Celtic influences. Notable elements of Irish culture include the Irish jig, Irish folklore (which includes stories of fairies and leprechauns) and celebrations like Saint Patrick's Day and Halloween –which is believed to be an adaption of the Gaelic festival 'Samhain.'

Celtic Ireland and Viking Raiders

As far back as 500 B.C.E. the Celts (along with their language, art, and culture) reached the island of Ireland. The Celts originated in central Europe as a collection of tribes with similar religion, language and traditions, and from there they migrated and spread their influence as far as France, Iberia and the British Isles. As a result of Celtic tribes settling in Ireland, a large Celtic population was established that –through isolation from other European influences and conflicts– left the most prominent traces of Celtic people as their culture, language, and history can be found across Ireland today.

When the Celtic tribes –chiefly the Gaels and the Irish– presided over Ireland during the fifth century C.E., neither the Romans or the Anglo-Saxons (who took control of modern day England) were able to successfully invade Ireland. Thus, the Celtic culture flourished and when Christianity arrived on the island with Saint Patrick in 432 C.E. many Celtic traditions were incorporated into the new religion. The use of the shamrock to represent the "Holy Trinity" and the use of the Celtic cross instead of

the Catholic cross are just some examples of the Celtic influences that remained even after Christianity swept through the land. Nordic raiders first began to attack Ireland in 795 C.E., using hit-and-run tactics to attack coastal monasteries. By the 840s these Norwegian vikings had established coastal settlements (such as Cork, Limerick and Wexford) around Ireland that allowed them to plunder the lands year-round. The Vikings are also responsible for the enslavement of many Irish natives so much so that the city of Dublin emerged as a slave market.

Luckily, Ireland had a decentralized government at the time, with many kings spread across the country, and while the Vikings believed this lack of unification to be a weakness, it eventually became the nation's strength as the Vikings had difficulty subduing the multiple rulers. Gradually, the division of Irish government put a strain on the Viking influence there, and after king Brian Boru attacked the Viking settlement of Limerick in 968, the Norse influence only continued to decrease. The Vikings in Ireland began to assimilate into the island's way of life and many of them converted to Christianity. By the 1170s the Viking Age came to a definitive end in Ireland and the last Norse king was driven out of Dublin.

English Rule

In the year 1166, one of the Irish kings –the King of Leinster– fled to France after a war with the Irish kingdom of Breifne and sought the aid of Henry II, King of England, in an attempt to reclaim his lands. In response, in 1169 Henry II sent Richard de Clare and an army of 600 Norman (the Normans are an ethnic group that originated from Normandy, France) knights to invade part of Ireland in an effort to help the King of Leinster. By 1175, Henry II had persuaded many of the Irish kings to accept him as the overseeing ruler of Ireland and the Treaty of Windsor was created to legitimize his control. With this arrangement, the Irish

Church was integrated with the Roman Church system that England belonged to and the feudal system began to take dominance in Ireland. Subsequently, in 1216 the Great Charter of Ireland (similar to the Magna Carta) was published and in 1297 the Parliament of Ireland was founded. As Norman settlers (who were also subjects of the English crown) migrated to Ireland, they began to integrate into Irish culture and many intermarriages between Irish and Norman peoples emerged. Naturally, the Norman adoption of Irish culture made England worry that the Irish people would regain control of the nation, so in 1367 the Parliament of Ireland passed the Statutes of Kilkenny. This prevented Norman assimilation into Irish society by forcing Normans and other English subjects in Ireland to speak English and forbidding any intermarriages or alliances with the Irish.

Through the course of time and England's lack of diligence, by the end of the 15th century English control over Ireland had diminished and Irish culture began to flourish once again, this time with more Norman influences. However, the English rule of Ireland was revitalized in 1542 by the infamous Henry VIII, who disregarded the former title of Lordship of Ireland to declare himself the King of Ireland. What followed was the Tudor conquest of Ireland, a subjugation that accompanied the Nine Years' War as the Catholic Irish resisted being forced into English Protestantism. The Irish lost the war in 1603 and the English regained control of Ireland. Still, the Irish did not give up easily and the 17th century saw the gruesome advent of both the Williamite War and the War of the Three Kingdoms.

As much as many Irish people desired independence, their efforts were unsuccessful and in 1801 the English government merged the two

kingdoms and established the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. This union further diminished Irish freedoms as the Parliament of Ireland was abolished and replaced by a collaborative parliament in London.

The Great Famine struck Ireland in 1845 and lasted for six years, devastating the nation so much that approximately one-third of Ireland's population perished. The famine was followed by an economic depression that spurred Irish emigration as millions fled to Canada and the United States in pursuit of a better life.

Irish Independence

Irish nationalism grew during the 19th and 20th century, and the election of Daniel O'Connell into the United Kingdom Parliament in Ireland gave the Irish hope for an independent future. O'Connell and others like him began to advocate autonomy, campaigning to achieve "Home Rule" which would allow Ireland to govern itself while remaining a part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Not all Irishmen supported Irish autonomy and groups like the Ulster Volunteers opposed independence, creating a distinct political divide in Ireland. Eventually, the Home Rule Act was passed in 1914 and provided that Ireland (excluding the region of Ulster that would later become Northern Ireland) would be given the right to govern itself. Enforcement of the Home Rule Act was delayed due to the start WWI, but after the war, the general election of 1918 was held, which allowed the Sinn Féin pro-independence republican party to gain prominence and establish a government and parliament for the new Irish Republic in 1919. Again, not all supported this move towards independence, and a violent three year war known as the Irish War for Independence enveloped the country from 1919 to 1921. After the end of the Irish War for Independence, the Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed in

December of 1921 and Ireland was given complete independence from British rule with the exception that Northern Ireland remain part of the United Kingdom. Disagreement over some of the provisions of the Anglo-Irish Treaty then led to the Irish Civil War, which was a three year battle between those who opposed and those who supported the new treaty that did not end until a cease-fire was ordered in 1923.

With the issue of Irish independence resolved, the newly founded Irish Free State was governed by the victors of the Irish Civil War, and it was not until 1949 that the state was finally declared the Republic of Ireland.

Ireland as of 2020

For several years, Ireland has experienced a time of peace and independence. Still, the issues of BREXIT (the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union) prove to be a difficult time for the Republic of Ireland as they work to negotiate a deal that will keep their economy intact even after BREXIT is enforced. The UK is one of Ireland's biggest export and import partners, so there are many negative consequences that Ireland could face as a result of the UK's decision. Besides this issue, the nation is advancing as a global example for progressive government, making advances to become the greenest country in the world and being the fourth country to have an openly gay head of government when Taoiseach ("Prime Minister") Leo Varadkar served from 2017 to 2020.

*Sources

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MARCH 2022

EUROPEAN SPIRIT: A GALLERY



Edita Bízová

Edita **Bízová** is a professional photographer based in the Czech Republic but she loves to travel and shoot content internationally. Her photography focuses on portraits of beauty -specifically with the mission of uplifting women no matter the shape or age. She strives to inspire women all over the world to feel confident and beautiful in themselves. She derives inspiration from various paintings, films, and other photographers. Delving deep into her art style, Edita creates fantasy-like images that are whimsical, vibrant, and illustrate movement. In one portrait, a woman rests in a bed of light-colored hued flowers, the fabric of her dress accentuates the figure of her body. In other portraits, women wear more unisex clothing from stitched vests to power suits. Edita's work is all about the encompassing image of a woman: elegant, colorful, and daring. She has received several awards for her work as listed below:

- Pollux Gala awards 2022 - winner in Fashion, 2 honourable mentions in portrait
- Contemporary online gallery - winner Gallery choice 01/2022
- Hasselblad Masters finalist 2021 portrait
- Sony world photography awards shortlist (open)
- VIEPA finalist
- FEP top 10 beauty category
- Malta international photo awards - abstract top 10
- Eyewin photography awards - 3rd place in beauty
- ND awards honorable mention 2020
- WPE awards 2020 - 7x silver
- Rise awards 2020 - 3x silver, 2x bronze
- Shoot the face 2019 finalist
- Shoot the face 2020 finalist
- 5th Fine art photography award - nominee
- 6th Fine art photography awards - 3x nominee
- One eyeland photography awards - finalist
- The portrait masters 2018 - 2x bronze
- The portrait masters 2019 - 11x bronze 1x silver
- The portrait masters 2020 - 4x bronze
- Rise awards 2019 - bronze

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Culture Talk
European
Culture and
Current
Events

European Spirit : A Gallery

- 1 Edita Bízová (@editbphoto)
- 2 Arthur Lahoda (@wavemeart)
- 3 Jolie Kesler (@joliekeslerphotography)
- 4 Diana Pigni (@dianapigniart)
- 5 Chaya De Silva (@chayadesilvaart)
- 6 Frank Pretorius (@frank_pretorius)



Edita Bízová
@editbphoto



EDITA BÍZOVÁ IS A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER AND ARTIST BASED IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC. HER MAIN PURPOSE IN HER WORK IS TO UPLIFT WOMEN SO THAT THEY CAN BE COMFORTABLE IN THEIR OWN SKIN AND ARE ABLE TO SHOWCASE THEIR UNIQUE QUALITIES.

ON HER PAGE, YOU CAN FIND VARIOUS PROJECTS, PHOTOSHOOTS, AND EDITORIAL-STYLE FRAMES THAT ARE AESTHETICALLY PLEASING TO THE EYE. HER WORK IS ALL ABOUT VIBRANCY, AUTHENTICITY, AND COLOR.





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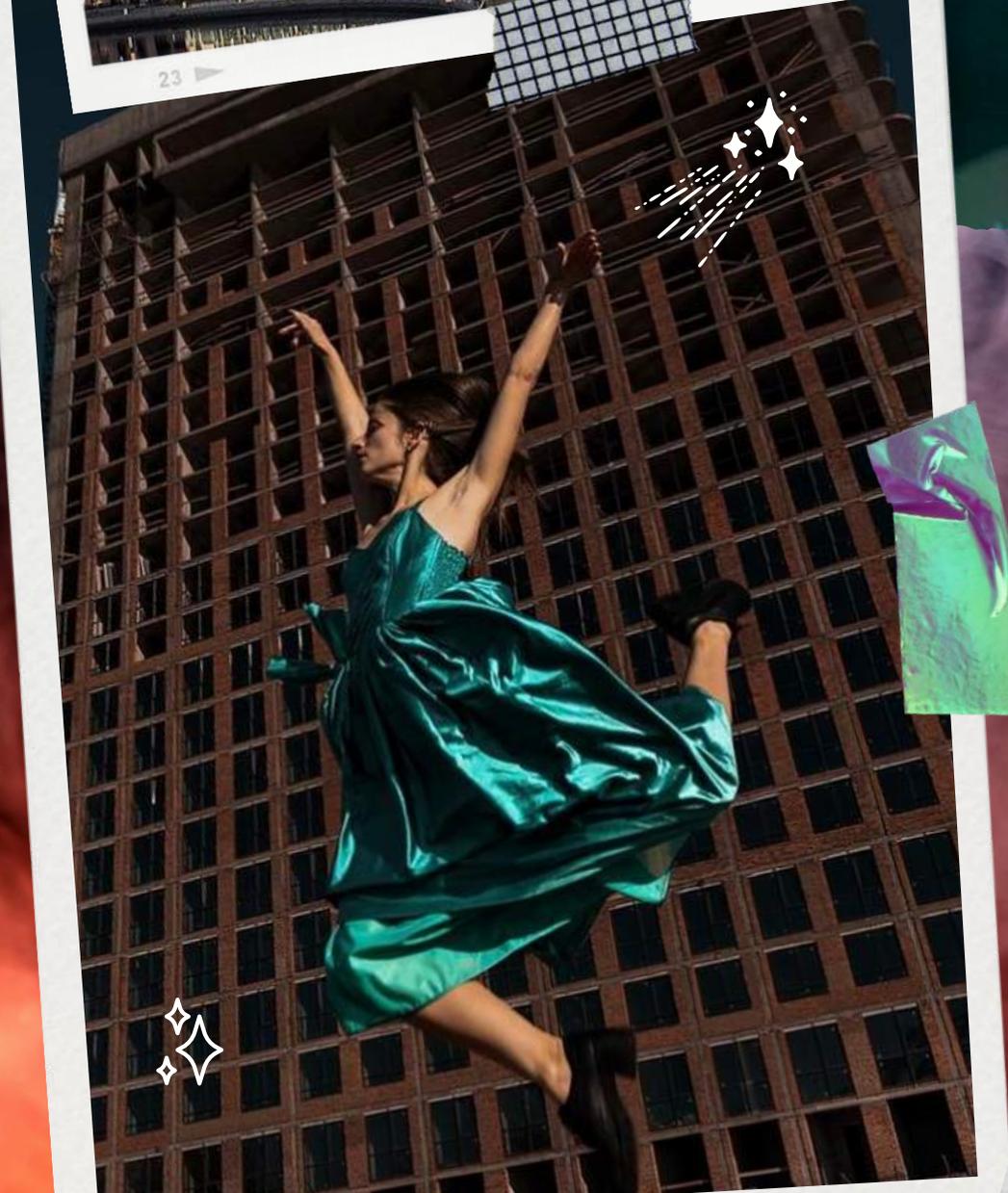
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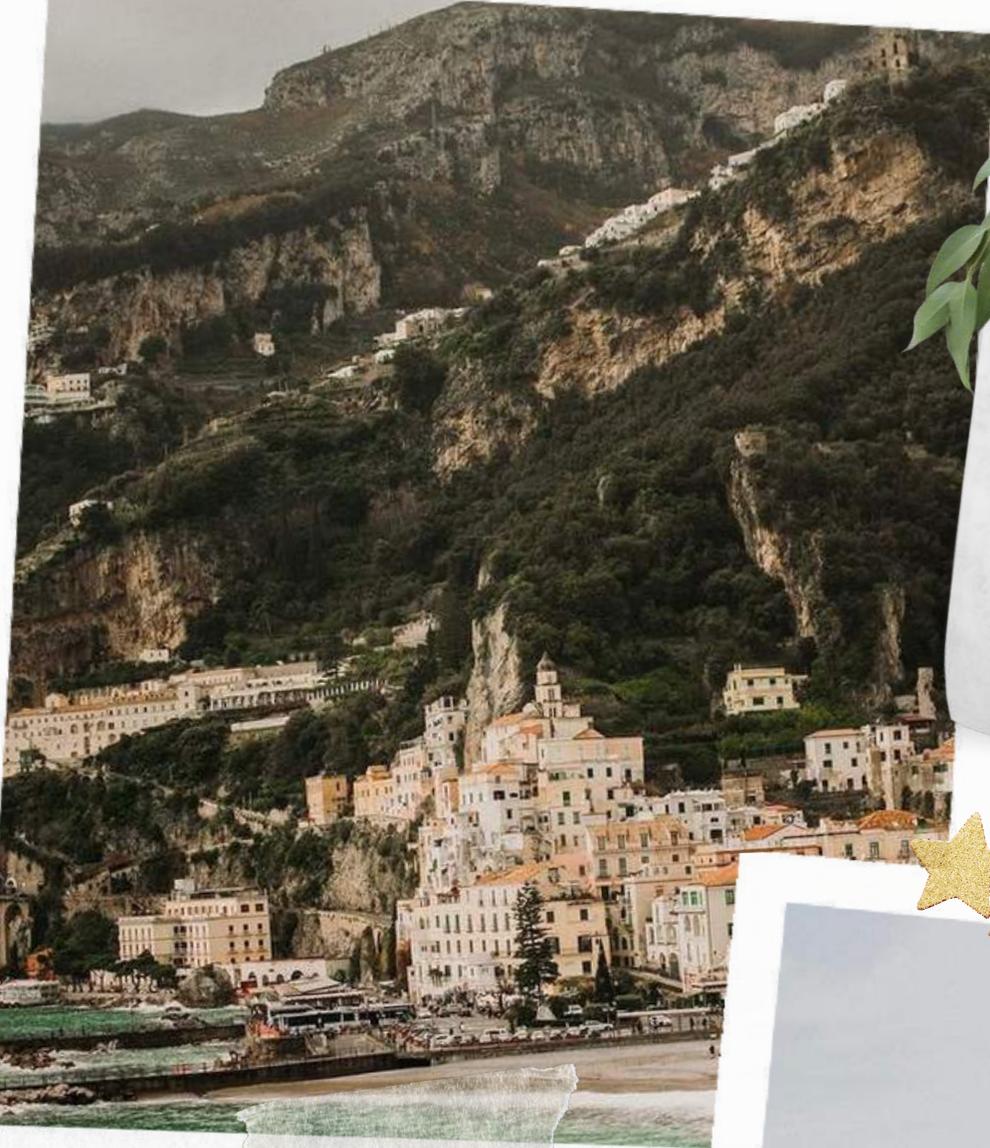


Arthur Lahoda
@wavemear



ARTHUR LAHODA IS A VIDEOGRAPHER, PHOTOGRAPHER, AND ARTIST BASED IN KYIV, UKRAINE. HE UTILIZES HIS SKILLS TO NOT ONLY HIGHLIGHT IMPRESSIVE LANDSCAPES BUT ALSO USES HIS ART TO SUPPORT HIS PEOPLE AND HIS HOME.



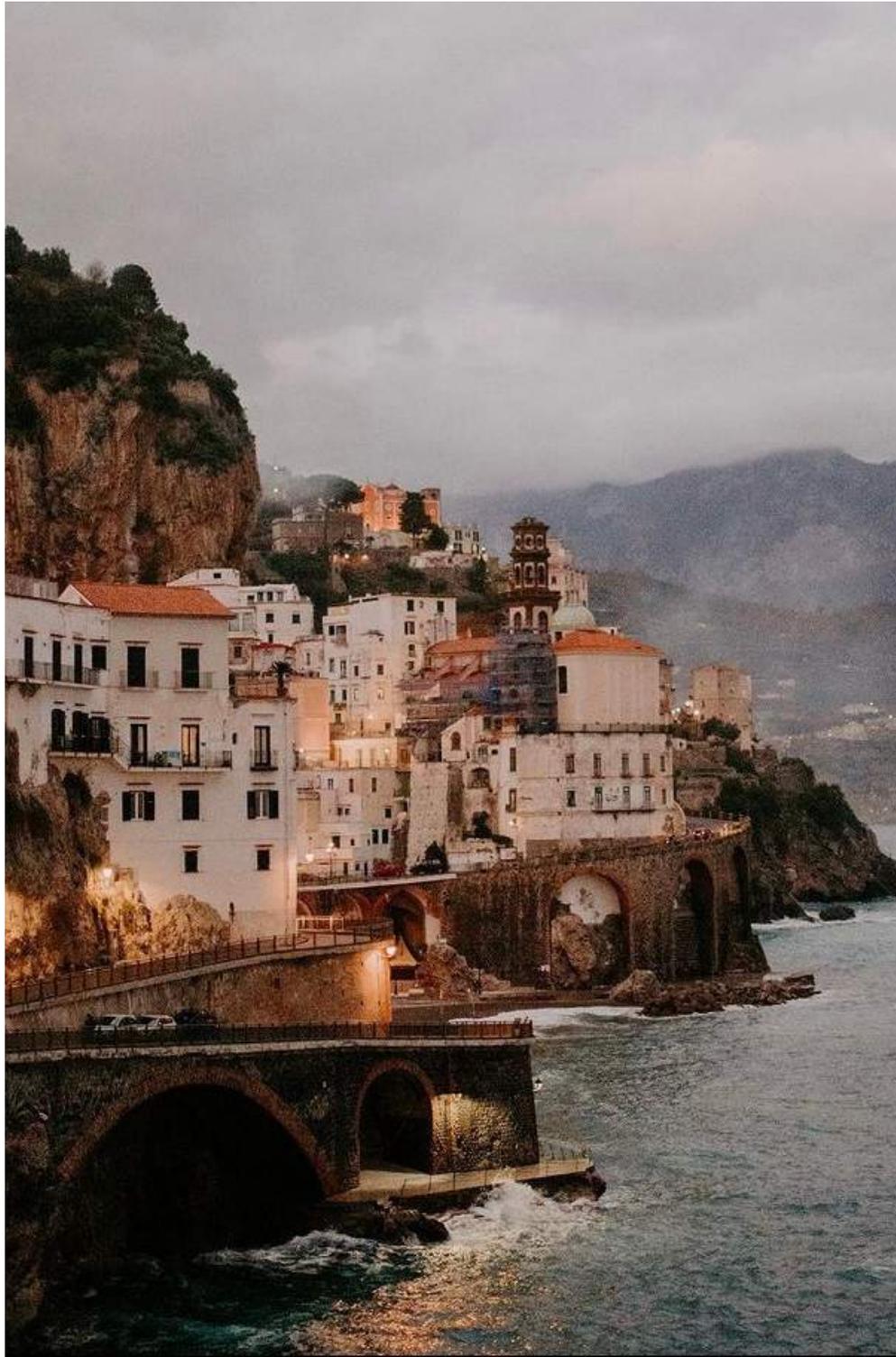


Based in Colorado with her husband and dog, Jolie Kesler has been creating landscape photographic art for 10 years. She has traveled across various countries in order to observe/ experience the beauty of the earth. Jolie specializes in moody mountain pieces and European cityscapes. She has photographed the Amalfi coast (Italy), Spanish cliffs (Spain), and more.

Jolie Kesler ★

@joliekeslerphotography





AMALFI COAST, ITALY BY @JOLIEKESLERPHOTOGRAPHY

DIANA PIGNI

@DIANAPIGNIART



Diana Pigni is an artist specializing in oil paintings. Originally from Latvia, she lived in Milan, Italy where she had been constantly working on her art. Her motto is to spread love, spread art.

Diana Pigni
2023

F. Pigni



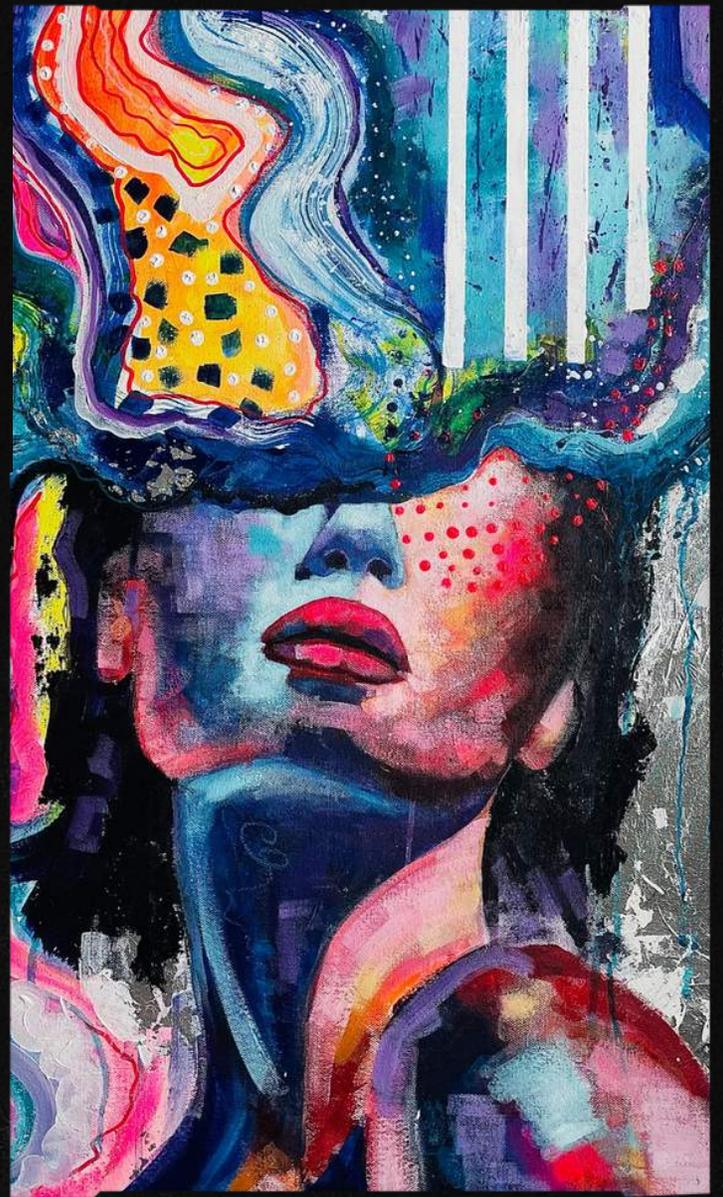


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CHAYA DE SILVA IS A SELF-TAUGHT ARTIST BASED IN SURREY, UNITED KINGDOM. BORN IN SRI LANKA TO A FAMILY OF RESPECTED PUBLICISTS AND A BACKGROUND IN BATIK ART, THIS PARTLY INFLUENCED HER ARTISTIC ABILITIES. SINCE AGE OF 9, SHE USED TO WATCH AND HELP HER AUNTY IN DECORATING CLOTHES WITH BATIK DESIGNS. THIS SERVED HER INSPIRATIONS.





Angela da Silva

FRANK PRETORIUS
@FRANK_PRETORIUS



UK based contemporary artist, Frank Pretorius, has been painting full time since 2018. Born in South Africa (1974) he grew up close to nature, which influenced his art from a young age. As a child he used to draw 'anything and everything' on all surfaces he could find, which got him into trouble too often. The drawing eventually gave way to studying graphic design and later film design.



Frank has recently created paintings of wildlife from Africa and England, the classic Porsche 550 and horses, and has been exhibited at the Contemporary Art Fairs in Windsor 2019.









MARCH 2022 · ISSUE 09

EUROPEAN CULTURE AND CURRENT EVENTS

THANK YOU.

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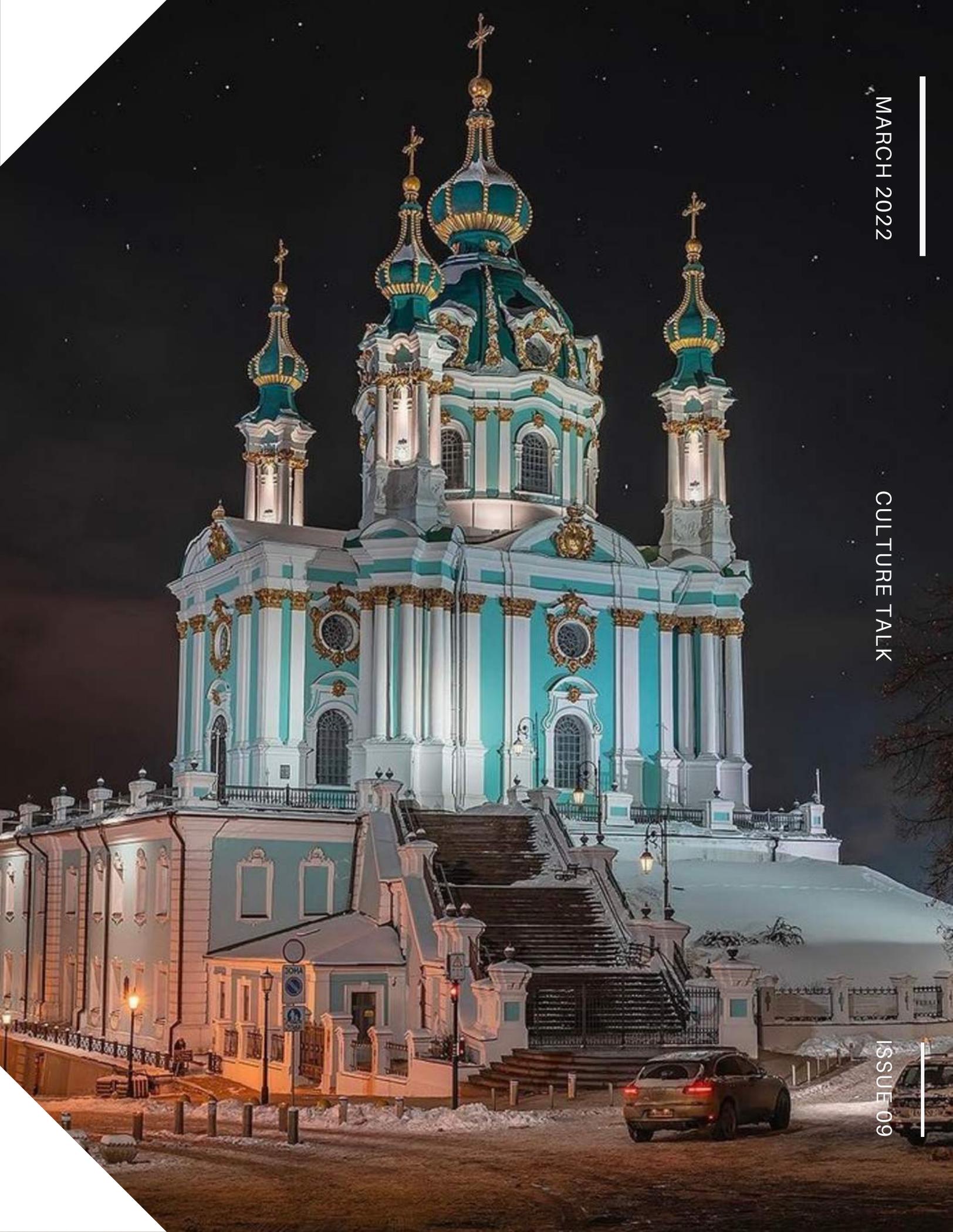
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BY: MILLA NGUYEN

With this issue, "European Culture and Current Events" (Issue 09), we explore just a small segment of what the European culture can offer. Europe is an ocean away from where Culture Talk is based, yet, the curiosity of the European lifestyle, people, and current events does not cease. Europe is a conglomerate of many regions, racial groups, and home to cities that are some of the most diverse in the world. To name a couple popular cities in Europe: the list includes London, Paris, Milan, and these are just a handful. Many cities can be broken down into neighborhoods, sectors, and smaller suburbs that have a unique quality around every corner. With this issue, think of this as a gallery pop-up, a small section within the greater location of a multi-sectional museum. We not only wanted to touch base on the importance of art, food, and language but also the personal anecdotes that a few of our writers have forged in the streets of Europe. The pleasant imagery of the cobblestone streets, Victorian style houses, and cliffs that host expansive villages seek to amaze tourists and civilians every single year. To us, Europe is a place of comfort and a place that is glamorous when viewed in popular TV & film. A place where people go to escape and reinvent themselves by seeking adventure in a tiny pub, stone fortress, or cliff dive - places that are memorable in the most unique ways. But while Europe is an incredible place to travel to and try new things, it is also the source of many current and previous events in history. Places have been affected by events of war, taken rights, dictatorships, etc. Even now, in the midst of 2022, it is no doubt that when tides change in Europe, the surrounding continents face the domino affect of these adversities. Even as someone who is just a mere student, someone who is young, war is talked about in our classes and maybe through the perspective of our families but has not always affected the way we reflect on our lives (or so we thought). Due to the growing politics of the Ukraine/ Russia events, it is our responsibility to share, discuss, and become aware. Through Culture Talk, we hope you have taken away from the very core of what we do: seek to have a better understanding of the world. With that, we want to thank you to our editors, writers, and readers. This issue concludes Volume 01 (Issues 1-9). Onwards to Volume 2.



MARCH 2022

CULTURE TALK

ISSUE 09