

North Dakota Museum of Art Hosts Film Screening at Empire Arts Center
Three short art films by *Women at War* artists followed by Panel Discussion and Reception

Grand Forks, ND – On Friday, February 28, 6 – 8 pm, the North Dakota Museum of Art will host a film screening at the Empire Arts Center in Downtown Grand Forks. This free, public event features three short art films by Ukrainian artists, Alevtina Kakhidze and Dana Kavelina. Both artists are featured in the Museum's current exhibition, *Women at War*, on display through March 30. Kakhidze's film *All Good* (2024) will make its North American premiere. A brief Q&A with the artists (live via Zoom from Ukraine), led by moderator, Dr. Christophe Wall-Romana, a scholar of cinema studies at the University of Minnesota, will follow along with a reception. ***Women at War* exhibition and programming is underwritten by the University of North Dakota.**

Alevtina Kakhidze's film, *All Good?* (2024) (20 min.) will begin the evening at 6 pm. Born in Zhdanovka, Ukraine, in 1973, she graduated from the National Academy of Fine Arts in Kyiv and Jan van Eyck Academie (Maastricht, Netherlands). Since 2018, she acts as the UN Tolerance Ambassador in Ukraine and was awarded the Kazimir Malevich Artist Prize in 2008 by the Polish Institute in Ukraine. Since 2009, lives and works in Muzychi village, Ukraine.

All Good? (2024) (19 min 57 sec): Alevtina Kakhidze's film was shot in Odesa in early 2024. Through the mirror of her family's history, the artist analyzes how an empire has ruined the lives of generations and how its influence, although at times unnoticed, eventually manifests itself. Kakhidze superimposes the history of her own family on the events of the 20th century in Ukraine and Europe, while also drawing a connection to the 21st century by continuing the story via a narration of her personal experience during Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The following two film by Dana Kavelina, include *Marc Tulip, Who Spoke with Flowers* (2018) and *There are No Monuments to Monuments* (2021). Kavelina works with animation and video, as well as drawing, installation, and painting. Her most recent video, *Letter to a Turtle Dove* (2020) was acquired by the Museum of Modern Art and is currently on display at the North Dakota Museum of Art as part of the exhibition *Women at War*. Her works often address military violence and war, seen from gender perspective - especially regarding the position of a victim as a political subject - as well as the distance between historical and individual trauma, and memory and misrepresentation. Kavelina was born in Melitopol, Ukraine and is currently based in Berlin and Lviv.

Marc Tulip, Who Spoke with Flowers (2018) (15 min 19 sec): The animated film creates the world of Mark L. Tulip who was born and raised in Luhansk. He is certain that he will be buried there as well. He has children and a granddaughter, a garden, a cat called Donbas and a dog Malva. However, the political events in Ukraine in 2014 change his habitual way of living: his own family splits into smithereens. Mark L. Tulip intends to live the life on his native land but when the war comes to Luhansk, he must escape abandoning all he loves. Still, the hardships of new life don't come to an end.

There are No Monuments to Monuments (2021) (34 min 35 sec): In this film, two video channels can be seen in parallel on the split screen. One video channel shows people discussing a certain monument that was presumably erected to memorialize the "Catastrophe," but their speech falls apart, and we cannot compose a single image of either the monument or the catastrophe that happened to these people. Their speech is too disintegrated, their evidence gets confused, their memory slips away, and the catastrophe remains dissolved in the air, like the city that appears on the screen in the form of fragments washed away by rain. On the other video channel, a person interacts with monuments, exploring the possibilities of juxtaposing her body and the stone bodies of historical catastrophes.