



ART PORTFOLIO

2022



Education

2022 – Course on sociocultural development of the territory. Nicola-Lenivets Art Park.

2017-2018 – Contemporary Art. Free Workshops. Moscow MoMA.

2009-2010 – The Institute of Contemporary Arts. Moscow.

2007-2012 – Polytechnic college: welding technology.

Solo exhibitions:

2021 – The Welding Universe of Weld Queen. Zheleznogorsk Museum. The Kursk region. Russia

2019 – Choice and Polyethylene. Fine Art Gallery. Moscow. Russia

2018 – Rocking chairs. Zverev Center of Contemporary Art. Moscow. Russia

International art fairs:

2019 – Frieze Art Show. Represented by BMW Group Culture. New York. USA

2019 – Scope Art Show. Represented by Art Cube Moscow in Miami. USA

2018 – Scope Art Show. Represented by Ural Vision Gallery in New York

2022, 2018 – Cosmospw international contemporary art fair. Moscow. Russia

2022, 2021, 2020 – ART RUSSIA Contemporary Art Fair. Moscow. Russia

2019 – DA! Moscow Art Show. Represented by Fine Art Gallery. Moscow. Russia

Selected residencies and festivals:

2019 – Burning Man. The Airfield for walking in the clouds project. Nevada. USA,

2020 – Burning Man. Winner in Honoraria program.

2016-2022 – Russian Burners: Decompression, Ogonek, Kholodok. Russia

2016 – Moulin Jaune. Slava Polunin's residency. Crécy-la-Chapelle. France.

Selected art interventions:

2018 – Art Basel Miami Beach International art fair. Miami. USA

2018 – Vienna Contemporary, Austria's international art fair. Marx Halle. Vienna. Austria

2018 – Ludwig Museum in the Russian Museum. Multimedia art museum, Moscow. Russia

2018 – Alexander Kosolapov. Lenin Coca-Cola. Moscow MoMA. Moscow. Russia

2017 – 7th Moscow International Biennale of Contemporary Art. The State Tretyakov Gallery. Moscow. Russia

2017, 2022 – Cosmospw international contemporary art fair. Moscow. Russia

Selected group exhibitions:

2017 – Over There, Where No One Dreams: from Sacred Geography to Non-Place, Moscow Museum of Modern Art (Moscow MoMA). Moscow. Russia

2018 – Russian-Chinese seasons 2018. Pop Up Museum. Moscow. Russia

2018 – RED by Artis. WINZAVOD Center of Contemporary Art. Moscow. Russia

2020 – The Cage total installation. State Darwin Museum. Moscow. Russia

2018 – Landing site. Space connection. Radishchev Museum. Saratov. Russia

2019 – Actual Russia. Adult choice. All-Russia Museum of decorative, applied and folk Art. Moscow. Russia

Selected public art projects:

2021 – Fur coat. Realm Complex. Dallas, Texas. USA.

2019 – Mother. Novosibirsk. Russia.

2018 – Multipine. Moscow. Russia.

2016, 2017 – Rooster candy; Brothers. The Lipetsk Region. Russia.

2015 – Meditating cat Tikhvami. Moscow. Russia.

WELD QUEEN

Weld Queen is a sculptor and performer. The main materials Weld Queen works with are metal, welding techniques, and fireproof tarpaulin; thus, she creates her artist mythology through metal sculptures, royal costumes, performances, and public art.

A viewer's personal experience is gained when they come into contact with the sculpture, and his presence gives the artwork a particular significance. The object is conceptually finished with the audience's direct involvement.

Weld Queen wears royal dresses made of rough, fire-resistant canvas, which serves as the canvas for new works of visual art. And a welding helmet, which metaphorically imitates the crown, complements all her outfits.

She mythologizes her professional experience, elevating welding reality to the rank of luxurious art. Yet, according to Weld Queen's point of view, labor is an action that helps people overcome egoism and leads to their spiritual formation.

ARTIST STATEMENT

In my artworks, I address the theme of egoism as a crucial factor in the daily problems of today's man. Egoism is the embodiment of the thirst for power and attention, of all possible immediate, hedonistic desires of man since his childhood. I created the Weld Queen world, elevating egoism to the highest value, creating the quintessence of egoism; in this world there is my royal castle, my own retinue, royal trappings, and sculptures representing human games and weaknesses. In experiencing the royal model, I consciously go through all the passions, the desires inherent in selfishness, thereby freeing myself from them. This is how I find the energy existing outside of selfishness. My mission is to give people the power so that they can develop constructively with the help of my sculptures.

PERFORMANCE



MONARCHY 2018

Royal welding outfit.
Objects "Cage" and "Shield." Steel.

Welding. Lacquering.

The mentality of the individuals around the artist was uncompromisingly influenced by monarchy. It is a state of mind, when individual opinion is elevated to the rank of an unquestionable law. The monarch's position is inherently dangerous and doomed to isolation. The more a person is assured of his superiority and uniqueness, the farther he place himself from others. The power becomes a burden, the position merges with the body, which the "Monarch" tries to protect. At some point, the armor turns into a cage.

PERFORMANCE



LIMITED MONARCHY 2019

Royal welding outfit.
Object "Cage."
Steel. Welding. Lacquering.



For 2.5 hours, Weld Queen performed while remaining still as a museum exhibit next to her costume.

The performer's task is to find "the true oneself" in the reality constructed by the positions — a social role, a body, and consciousness. The royal dress serves as a representation of the social rank.

We are cut off from social self-determination by the act of exposure, which develops into the initial stage of alienation. The move from material reality to the transcendental experience of the inner self is referred to as the second stage of estrangement. The body of the artist is intentionally transformed into an object of external observation.

Radical body experience allows you to reach the awareness of your pure identity, which does not depend on your outer shells (the gender, the age, the profession, the social status, etc.).

PERFORMATIVE SCULPTURE



NUTRIENT MEDIUM
2019

860 x 445 x 950 mm
Steel. Welding. Lacquering.



For centuries up to nowadays, the representation of a woman or a (nursing) mother as an energy source is still deeply ingrained in the new information environment. Female attribution is performed at the level of a "nursing battery," carrying solely functional qualities.

In this performative sculpture, a woman's body is depicted as being enclosed in a "metal net." In the age of digital freedom, freedom from gender-based (and other types of) classification is just as false as it is at the level of interpersonal relationships.

This work suggests to reconsider the experiences of relationships between a person's subjective self-perception and bodily form as well as relationships between a person and his or her gender identity. The primary issue with the artist's work is the opposition between the material and the transcendent.

PUBLIC ART



MEDITATING CAT TIKHVAMI
2015, private collection, Moscow

2300 x 2000 x 1400 mm
Steel. Welding. Galvanizing.

The sculpture **Meditating cat Tikhvami** answers the eternal question “what spirit and spirituality are.” Tikhvami’s body is a “half-spirit,” as it is both physical and transparent. The light openwork technique of work creates a sense of illusion and ephemerality of the image. Being an extraterrestrial and inconceivable creation, it remains still a cat, a very familiar and understandable creature. As though it urges us to sit down with him, calm down, clear the mind of everyday fuss, and think about what is beyond the time, space and the boundaries of our perception.

The sculpture **Meditating bear Ramishi** is an allegory of international friendship and mutual understanding. As a bear, Ramishi embodies the maximum degree of tolerance: the breadth of vision, embracing all worldviews and cultures with equal grace, since all living beings are united in their spiritual origin. In this approach, an unshattered and harmonious attitude to the world appears. Despite a wild dangerous nature of the animal, however, Ramishi irradiates calm confidence and kindness, so "sinking into his arms," the viewer feels warm and protected.



MEDITATING BEAR RAMISHI
2016

2200 x 2000 x 1500 mm
Steel. Welding. Galvanizing.

PUBLIC ART



BROTHERS **2017, the Lipetsk region**

4100 x 4100 x 2100 mm
Steel. Welding. Galvanizing.

The statuary represents seven angels standing back to back to each other in the circle and holding each others' hands; there is an empty space on the place of the eighth figure. This place is designed for a spectator: he can close the circle and become a part of the round dance – the sacred movement, symbolically giving energy and spiritual power to its participants and the surrounding space. The image of an angel is chosen on purpose: in the human consciousness, He is the supreme creature, a guardian, a spiritual mentor, “elder brother,” who is always ready to protect and guide the right path.

The Brothers have no faces. Visualizing the most abstract light spiritual creatures, they give the spectator the opportunity to endow with missing personal features and see “the sought face” in each one.

PUBLIC ART



MOTHER

2018-2019, The Mir Park property, Novosibirsk

2800 x 2700 x 1700 mm

Steel. Welding. Polishing

"Mother" is the personification of the cosmic creative power, the image of the original source standing at the beginning of all things. This power is immeasurable and infinite, just as a mother's love. She is a spiritual energy of intangible light that encompasses the entire universe and supports and directs "her children" in the right path.

People can sit and lay down the "Mother's" arms, thereby implementing the idea of the invisible protection always being present next to the person.

"Mother" is called to give freedom to our thoughts, to personify the art that shows the way out of problems and gives a "cherished gulp" of fresh energy.

The drawing from rods refers to the ornament of water arteries, the vessels of the plants or the human bloodstream. It is the eternal circulation of energy, the pulsation of the vital force surrounds us.

SCULPTURE



THE EIGHTH 2022

2050 x 800 x 1100 mm
Steel. Welding. Polishing

This is a faceless angel emerging from the wall and inviting visitors to follow him. The Eighth is an interactive sculpture that invites us to reflect on the illusory nature of imagined or seeming "life scenes." The Eighth is an independent sculpture, continuing the idea line of the "Brothers" sculpture.

PUBLIC ART



FUR COAT

2018, in public space ownership, Dallas, Texas, USA

1600 x 1700 x 2700 mm

Construction rebar. Welding. Painting.

In a single piece of art, gold and a fur coat, as indicators of financial success, symbolically represent "real luxury that is sure to keep you warm" and can be worn on the shoulders.

The longevity of our values is a topic for discussion in light of this display. Is the constant pursuit of excessive luxury — especially in the digital world and on social media sites like Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook — a type of behavior that genuinely makes people happy? Is it just a temporary safe refuge allowing to escape from the unsightly parties of the harsh reality?

Combining two conceptually opposed materials—rough construction rebar and "gold coating" — increases the effect of distorting dominant values by highlighting the contradictions between our necessities and wants. A person can "enter" the fur coat, and thus "try on the part of the monarch," stand out from the crowd, and feel like, if not a king, then at least a superstar.

PUBLIC ART



CHOICE AND POLYETHYLENEHE 2016-2019

Project includes
9 anthropomorphic
sculptures

While playing the game of hunting for suitable companions, a person often loses himself. He alters his physical appearance and facial features in an effort to resemble renowned persons or to meet the expectations of masculinity and attractiveness. As a result, numerous human duplicates that are very similar to one another are produced, and an illusion of a shop window is generated whereby similar goods are displayed in dense vacuum plastic packaging. When a person who has forgotten his identity, is given to the will of love entanglement, then he has a choice only among these plastic toys. Through this artwork Weld Queen proposes to play consciously “in the games of the physical world.” All persons are energy-based entities with unique identities and strengths. Everyone can find their own independence once they realize this.

The position of the observer, who is seeking value in himself, is reflected by the immobile figure in the center. The artist invites each visitor to view this sculpture in this context as their own self-portrait.

PUBLIC ART

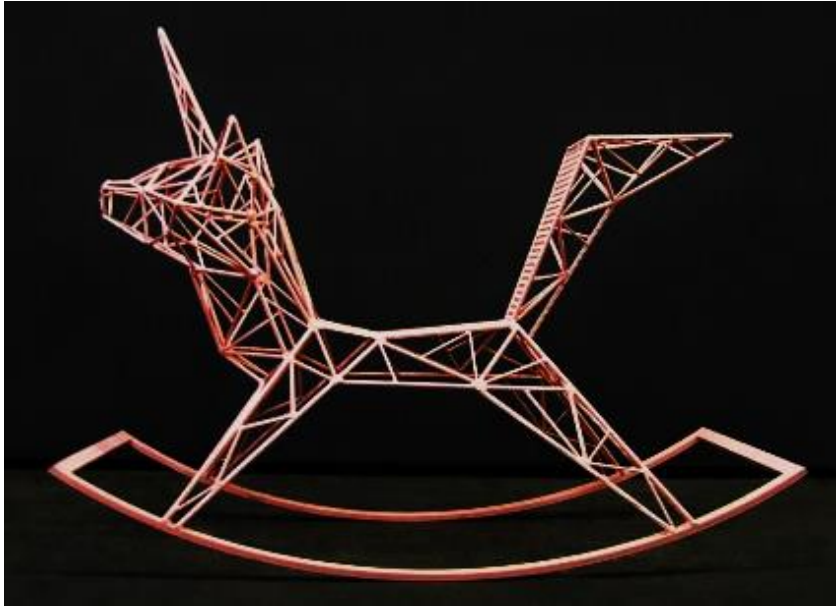


BOOBS DRAGON 2017

1550 x 2050 x 1030 mm
Steel. Welding. Painting.

Boobs Dragon is a chthonic creature, a chimerical creation of chaos, formed by combining the genes of the snake-tempter, a legendary figure from biblical times, and of the ancient Slavic character known as Gorynych the Dragon. Boobs Dragon is a brilliant and alluring representation of the vices of contemporary society. He gives people the impression of permissiveness and impunity; as a result, we believe that we can improve, build, and pump everything that we believe a person needs in order to be happy. Behind all the attractive packaging, it nevertheless remains nothing less than a cunning serpent, despite being brilliant, glossy, and incredibly seductive—a magnificent form of creation. The decision to travel on it in his "bright future" or discover an alternative method is still up to the viewer.

PUBLIC ART



UNICAT
2017

1600 x 1200 x 700 mm
Steel. Welding. Painting.

Unicat is the synthesis of magic and reality. On the one hand, a mythical and mysterious image of a snow-white horse with a horn, which only appears in front of those who are physically and mentally pure. On the other hand, our nearest and dearest cat, very familiar to us, is a symbol of home warmth and comfort. Both the cat and the unicorn, so different in nature, have one common feature: only love, kindness, and affection can tame them. Sitting on the unicorn, the spectator automatically "tames" him, obtaining all his virtues, as admitted by this magical creature.



ELEPHANT-BURGER
2016

1800 x 1150 x 1300 mm
Steel. Welding. Painting.

Elephant-burger is an art object in which a person is an integral part as he or she is inlaid in the sculpture. The spectator serves as stuffing in the burger and is offered the feeling of being trapped in the dominant values of the consumer society. Burger is probably the most popular dish in the world, the perfect outcome of a mass production system. The elephant is a reflection of its powerful and calm nature. The sculpture is an allegorical expression of our consumer attitude toward the surrounding world. She suggests "predator" and "victim" swapping places, thus giving the opportunity to enhance our environmental consciousness and responsibility for our deeds.

PUBLIC ART



AIRFIELD FOR WALKING IN THE CLOUDS 2019 BURNING MAN

3200 x 1600 x 4500 mm
Mixed media

Weld Queen produced the 72 x 40 ft model of the imaginary airfield "Airfield for walking in the clouds," which features 10 dreamliners called "Armchairs for walking in the clouds." The project is a large interactive installation where people can "break out" from the ground and get closer to their aspirations by swinging and sitting in "Armchairs for walking in the clouds." People can start their own journeys into the depths of their inner space at Airfield.

PUBLIC ART



ARMCHAIR FOR CRUISING IN THE CLOUDS.

WQ-4 model

2016, in Slava Polunin's creative space of – Yellow Mill France

3500 x 1800 x 1300 mm
Steel. Welding. Painting.



The co-creative cloud armchair is an object you can use to travel through your dreams with someone who is close to you spiritually. We usually feel like we need to share something very positive and precious with another person! On a cloud armchair you can break the usual pattern by overcoming inner barriers and creating one common space for several free souls.

PUBLIC ART



MERRY-GO-ROUND OF CORPOREALITY 2022

3400 x 3400 x 1300 mm
Steel. Welding. Galvanizing.

The merry-go-round is a favorite attraction from childhood, and it's an attraction that lasts all our lives. It is a fast movement in a circle that is fun and meaningless, creating the illusion of activity and busyness. We sink into our "masks," our "bodies," moving down predetermined paths without making many decisions or selections yet still holding out hope of choice. Our body is a role that we try to fulfill as best we can. Thus, laughing and going around on the merry-go-round are the only ways to feel free.

COSTUMES



"EVENING WELDING DRESS"
2016



"THE GALACTIC WELDING SUIT"
2017



"ANGEL WELDING SUIT"
2017

PERFORMATIVE OBJECTS

Weld Queen's performative accessories are a true steel ode to the strength and elegance of a woman's endurance. In the hands of their mistress, they become a manifesto of independence of character and freedom from social conventions.



**HANDBAG FOR STRONG WOMAN
2016**

Steel. Welding. Lacquer



**MICROBE №2
2018**

Steel. Welding. Lacquer



**CHINESE BAMBOO MINAUDIERE
2018**

Steel. Welding. Lacquer



**FAN
2018**

Steel. Welding. Lacquer.

PERFORMATIVE OBJECTS



STRING BAG

2017

Steel. Welding. Lacquer

A string bag is a portable work of art that transports you to a time before plastic bags were invented and alludes to the particular aesthetic of Eastern Europe's daily life in the 1980s. The adaptable string bag, which is composed of strong threads and takes up little space but can hold a lot of items, was a mainstay of everyday shopping. This invention is memorialized specifically in the metal string bag made by Weld Queen, which almost makes it everlasting. The string bag encapsulates every cultural memory of the 20th century, symbolically transporting us back to the era of our grandmothers. On the other hand, it is meant to provide entirely distinct information that is pertinent to contemporary situations. The contents vary according to the circumstance and the owner. A performative accessory reflects the formula: "Tell me what's in your string bag, and I'll tell you who you are."

SCULPTURE



WELD QUEEN COINS 2022

ONE WELD QUEEN
BY BANK OF WELD QUEEN

Steel

The Weld Queen stands for a coin and a monetary unit of the Kingdom of Weld Queen, which has a variable exchange rate. The most stable fixture currency!

The reliability of many currencies now raises questions, Weld Queen is an investment-friendly diversification of your savings. It is simply a win-win, ironclad option that is sure to grow in value!

The coins are created from royal construction rebar, under the close supervision of the Royal Mint.

Other denominations of 3, 7, 11, 17, 69, 101, and other Weld Queen coins are planned.

The first series of "1 Weld Queen" will be issued in an edition of 52 coins in October 2022. Each coin is accompanied by a certificate of identity.

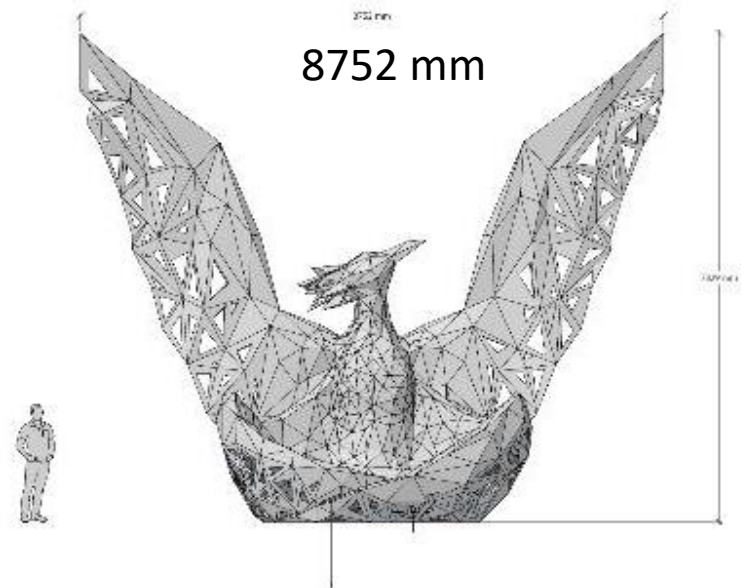
FUTURE PROJECTS



PHOENIX

8752 x 7329 x 3434 mm
Steel COR-TEN

The image of a four-winged Phoenix came to the artist at the peak time of the pandemic as a recovery from any adversity. The two upper wings of the Phoenix show the power of nature, enthusiasm. The lower wings, folded in a gesture of embrace, reflect the maternal care of Nature, protecting, nurturing, and guiding her children. Humanity, subjected to a variety of trials and overcoming them, finds a way to grow and develop.



7329 mm

8752 mm



3434 mm

PUBLIC ART



SUN DRUM 2021, Murmansk

3100 x 3400 x 1400 mm
Steel. Welding. Galvanizing.

Sun Drum is the first sound public art object installed in the Arctic Circle, on a picturesque hillside in Murmansk. As a "walking" sun on the hill, it reflects the sunset. Yet, Sun Drum adds the enchanted metaphone sounds to the Murmansk port's symphony. Metaphone is a metal musical instrument, unique in its kind and size, the prototype for which is the popular percussion instrument, the steel tongue drum. Sun Drum has been realized at the intersection of public art and sound art.

PUBLIC ART IN ART RESIDENCIES

Weld Queen created a number of art residencies from scratch in 2020–2022, launched open calls, selected students who applied for the content, let them explore the areas where the public art was to be produced, curated all the processes inside the art residencies, delivered lectures, guided workshops on welding and curated the production of the public art objects. These works of public art are the end products of the residencies. They are able to make a person feel unified with the surrounding nature and do blend into the chosen place.



TAM TAM
2020

Steel. Welding. Galvanizing.



SUN CIRCLE
2021, the Murmansk region

3000 x 4900 x 1700 mm
Steel. Welding. Galvanizing.



THE DREAMER
2022, the Murmansk region

4000 x 3800 x 1700 mm
Steel. Welding. Galvanizing.

PUBLIC ART IN ART RESIDENCIES



SUN CIRCLE
2021, the Murmansk region

3000 x 4900 x 1700 mm
Steel. Welding. Galvanizing.

WELD QUEEN WORKSHOP



EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES. ART-WELDING

Welding art workshops are a unique opportunity to expand public knowledge about the welding trade, allowing people to experience firsthand the bounty of manual labor in general. Welding, as an integral part of the urban life of mankind, is represented as a sacred act of creation and transformation, and at the same time is accessible to all who wish to do so.

Some of workshop locations:

- Slava Polunin residency, Moulin Jaune, France, 2016
- Burning man, USA, 2019
- Skills Bazaar 2018, Kazan, 2018
- Shape Festival. Moscow. 2017
- Geek Picnic and Bright People Festival, Moscow, 2016
- VK Fest, St. Petersburg, 2016



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