



**Jan Van Woensel** is an independent curator and art critic who lives and works between Belgium, the Czech Republic and Ukraine. He is the founder and director of **3apa3 Ukraine: platform for emerging artists**. Van Woensel is guest curator at B7 artspace in Mechelen, Belgium; curator of international exhibitions and symposiums at the University of West Bohemia, Pilsen, CZ; and international guest professor at Kharkiv State Academy of Design and Art, KSADA. As an art critic, he contributes to Flash Art Magazine, Fotograf Magazine (Prague, CZ); and Whitehot Magazine (New York City, USA). In 2025, He launched **3U:Um** (3apa3 Ukraine: Underground magazine), a paperless publication of experimental writing, diary notes and (war)poetry.

In 2022, Van Woensel founded the independent organization **3apa3 Ukraine: platform for emerging artists**. With 3apa3 Ukraine, he organized residence programs for Ukrainian artists in Prague and Pilsen, Czech Republic; Košice, Slovakia; and Mechelen, Belgium. In 2024, he curated a series of exhibitions and projects, titled ***Crisis of imagination***, at B7 artspace, Grambacht gallery, RADAR and Beguinage church in Mechelen, Belgium. In 2025, he organized the first edition of ***MAMA art festival with humanitarian missions*** at FAB181 in Antwerp, Belgium, which raised funds for the NGO Feel Home – Ukrainian volunteers in Belgium. He is the curator of ***Echoes of Unity***, a Creative Europe-funded project with emerging artists from Ukraine and with exhibitions in Italy, Portugal and Poland between January and June 2026. Currently, he is preparing the bilateral Flemish-Ukrainian group exhibition ***(post-)System: painting and photography on the boundary of control*** for Mala gallery, Laboratory of Contemporary Art at Mystetskyi Arsenal in Kyiv, and for the Municipal Art Center in Lviv, Ukraine. At KSADA in Kharkiv, he launches the masterclass ***W(a)R, Writing (as) Resistance***, which re-actualizes and draws inspiration from the 1921 collection of poems “Occupied City” by Paul Van Ostayen and Oscar Jespers.

Via 3apa3 Ukraine, Van Woensel mediated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Sint Lucas Antwerp and the Kharkiv State Academy of Design and Art, KSADA; successfully allocating European Erasmus+ budgets. The artistic research and exchange projects between students in Antwerp and Kharkiv are co-directed by Jan Van Woensel and Kurt Vanbelleghem.

From 2003, Jan Van Woensel held curatorial and academic positions at Sint Lucas (Antwerp, Belgium), HISK, Higher Institute of Fine Arts (Antwerp and Ghent, Belgium), Cultural Center and Academy Mechelen (Mechelen, Belgium), and Menen Museum (Menen, Belgium); de Brakke Grond Flemish Cultural Center, and de Appel Curators Training Program (Amsterdam, The Netherlands); New York University Steinhardt School of Culture,

Education and Human Development, The Armory Show, ISCP International Studio and Curator's Program, Art in General, Bloomberg Gallery, Envoy Gallery, Angel Orensanz Foundation, and Chelsea Art Museum (New York City, USA); NADA New Art Dealers Alliance, and NADA Art Fair at Art Basel Miami Beach (Miami, USA); Otis College of Art and Design (Los Angeles, USA); California College of the Arts (San Francisco, USA); Iceland University of the Arts (Reykjavik, Iceland); IASPIS (Stockholm, Sweden); Grimmuseum, and Kunstlerhaus Bethanien (Berlin, Germany); OFF International Photography Festival (Bratislava, Slovakia); Nova Sí gallery, and DOX Center for Contemporary Art (Prague, Czech Republic), University of West Bohemia, LSG gallery, and Municipal Art Gallery (Pilsen, Czech Republic); Duolun MoMA (Shanghai, China).

Noteworthy exhibitions and projects by curator Jan Van Woensel include the traveling *BAD MOON RISING* and *BAD MOON festival* which ran from 2008 until 2015 in San Francisco, New York City, Saint Louis (USA), Oslo (NO), Brussels and Antwerp (BE); *Le Point Zero* and *The Cursed Image* with Philippe Vandenberg (1952-2009) in 2008 in New York City (USA); *The Underground School of Contemporary Art USCA* in 2016 in Antwerp (BE); *Crisis of imagination* at B7 artspace, Beguinage church, Grambacht gallery and RADAR residency in 2024 in Mechelen (BE); and *(post-)System, painting and photography on the boundary of control* in 2025 and 2026 at B7 artspace in Mechelen (BE), LSG gallery in Pilsen (CZ), Mala gallery, Laboratory of Contemporary Art at Mystetskyi Arsenal in Kyiv, and Municipal Art Center in Lviv (UA).

### **Instagram**

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**зU:Um** (зараз Ukraine: Underground magazine)

<https://ukrainemagazine.blogspot.com>