

LISTE ART FAIR BASEL 2026

Preview by invitation:
Monday, 15 June, 11:00 - 18:00

Opening:
Monday, 15 June, 18:00 - 20:00

DATES:
June 15, 2026 - June 21, 2026

OPENING HOURS:
Tuesday - Saturday, 16-20 June: 12-8pm
Sunday, 21 June: 11am - 4pm

LOCATION:
BOOTH 67, MESSE BASEL, HALL 1.1
MAULBEERSTRASSE / RIEHENRING 113
CH-4058 BASEL

Voloshyn Gallery is pleased to present Yuriy Bolsa's solo exhibition *I Tripped Over a Cloud While Looking at the Ground* — a meditation on perception, escape, and moral responsibility in a time of war.

IMAGE:

Yuriy Bolsa

The rays of light became heavy and pushed me to the ground, 2026

oil on canvas
94 x 104 cm



BASEL, CH
15.06.26 - 21.06.26

The project stems from a simple consequence of a miserable urban life: looking up at the sky. What begins as a personal coping mechanism unfolds into an ethical question. Is looking upward an act of wonder, or a wilful evasion of the tragedy surrounding us? The artist does not resolve this tension, he inhabits it. In a time of war, the luxury of beauty carries a moral cost. Some look at the sky; others ascend to it, so that those below may exist without fear.

The paintings presented in the booth are dedicated to exploring what happens at the threshold between those two positions. Light, once absorbed through prolonged exposure to the sun or a strike of lightning, leaves a residue on the retina as an afterimage that temporarily obscures everything beneath it: the dirt, the cracks, the damage. This luminous blur becomes the central metaphor — blindness as a form of sight that reveals what has been endured.

The paintings represent Bolsa's reflections on the interaction with his surroundings and space, which he depicts through largely anthropomorphic silhouettes placed in various mise-en-scènes. As is always the case in his work, the central symbolism of what unfolds on the canvas is conveyed through the titles themselves, such as *What is needed is on the outside, what would frighten that need is hidden on the outside; Someone will remain inside, in order to exist on the outside later; I must take care of others, and you take care of me*. In this way, the titles become more than a means of distinction — they actively shape the narrative and bring it to its fullest meaning.

The multi-part sculptural project *Character* explores the personal metamorphosis of its protagonist. The sculptures, crafted from plastic, metal, and chicken bones, combine three entirely different materials — each distinct in its nature — as three constituent elements of a single identity. Every character resembles the others, yet their forms and movements differ radically. Some are frozen in an attacking stance, weapon fused seamlessly with the body; others stand still in quiet anticipation, metallic objects growing from their torsos like armour. These figures simultaneously evoke mythical creatures and characters from a video game.

The wooden sculpture *My Wound Is My Weapon* presents a fragile yet simultaneously dangerous creature struggling to maintain its balance — a being caught between the acts of

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attacking and defending. Even in defeat, it cannot avoid wounding those who approach it. Every injury hardens it, making it more dangerous than before. The work incorporates glass that was blown out of the windows during a missile strike in the building where the artist's studio is located, demonstrating how any destruction becomes reinvented as a means of defence and attack at the same time.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Yuriy Bolsa

Yuriy Bolsa was born in 1997, in Chervonohrad, Lviv region, Ukraine. He graduated from the College no. 11 in Chervonohrad, majoring in computer typing and typesetting in 2015. Bolsa's artistic practice began with a self-inflicted imprisonment in his apartment, which lasted for 6 years. The artist works with personal stories, dominated by loneliness, self-destruction and research of the surrounding society through the prism of alienation. His practice reflects on the psychological and moral landscape of contemporary Ukraine, navigating the fragile boundaries between inner refuge and civic responsibility.

Yuriy Bolsa is a nominee of the PinchukArtCentre Prize 2025, and a laureate of the Culture Ambassadors Scholarship 2022 from the Odesa Contemporary Art Museum.

ABOUT LISTE ART FAIR

Liste was founded in 1996 in response to a paradigm shift in the art world: A new and self-assured generation of gallerists and artists had emerged in the late 1980s and early 1990s with fresh perspectives but limited access to established market structures, particularly Art Basel. Aiming to provide this generation with an international platform in Basel, the first edition of Liste featured 36 galleries from 12 countries.

As a nonprofit foundation, Liste has no commercial interests. Its priority is to actively support a new generation of galleries and their artists by keeping booth costs low and enabling participation for underrepresented initiatives. This ethos has made Liste a decisive and independent force in the global art ecosystem for 30 years: forward-thinking, relevant and unwaveringly committed.

ABOUT VOLOSHYN GALLERY

In 2016, Max and Julia Voloshyn established Voloshyn Gallery in the heart of Kyiv, Ukraine. Situated in a historic 1913 building, Voloshyn Gallery's space provides an unconventional setting for contemporary art. It exhibits a broad range of works in a variety of media, representing both emerging and established artists. Voloshyn Gallery hosts solo and group exhibitions, works with accomplished curators and museums, and takes part in leading contemporary art fairs.

In 2022, Voloshyn Gallery made the difficult decision to close temporarily due to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In 2023 the gallery reopened its doors in Kyiv, Ukraine and also expanded with a space in Miami, Florida.

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