

Irina Bondarenko

Artist Statement

In my work, I aimed to convey a vulnerable beauty of a humble object. A beauty that is partially obstructed, or constrained by the geometry of outer surfaces, or layers of decoration. I relied on the contrast of the materials, swift sgraffito lines, the incongruity of external and internal surfaces to capture the vulnerability and tenacious nature of an object. Floral patterns used to be one of the recurrent themes in my work. Drawing them I used to think of an apple orchard near my parents' house in the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine. This orchard is no more. I miss the innocence of petals and my hand drawing them. There are two different lives: one that ended on February 24, and my current one steered in the suffering of my people.