

SEANKELLY



Marina Abramović and Sean Kelly host a benefit auction with Artsy to aid humanitarian relief in Ukraine

Artist Marina Abramović and Sean Kelly have partnered with photographer Marco Anelli, leading online art marketplace Artsy, and Baobab Frames to help support the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine by hosting a benefit auction in which 100% of the proceeds will go to Direct Relief's emergency response to aid Ukraine.

The two lots will feature a unique opportunity to be photographed sitting with iconic performance artist Marina Abramović at Sean Kelly Gallery, New York, on Saturday, April 16, the final day of her current exhibition, *Performative*. The winning bidders will be photographed seated opposite Abramović in her installation of *The Artist is Present*, a six-projection film documenting, in real time, her historic 2010 performance at MoMA in which she sat silently in a chair as visitors to the museum took turns sitting across from her for eight hours a day, over nearly three months, for a total of 716- and one-half hours. Each of the winning bidders will be photographed with Abramović by renowned photographer Marco Anelli, who documented every sitting in Abramović's legendary performance. Each sitter will receive a framed copy of the photograph signed by both Abramović and Anelli. In addition, they will receive a signed copy of Anelli's 2021 publication, *Portraits in the Presence of Marina Abramović*, which includes portraits of all 1545 participants in the MoMA performance.

The online auction, hosted by Artsy, will begin on date March 17th and run until March 25th.

In a viral video issued by Abramović about Russia's unprovoked war on Ukraine, the artist states, "I have full solidarity with [the Ukrainian people] on this impossible day. An attack on Ukraine is an attack on all of us. It's an attack on humanity and has to be stopped."

SEANKELLY

Mike Steib, CEO of Artsy said, “Artsy is proud to partner with Sean Kelly and Marina Abramović, and use our marketplace to host this auction, which will raise much-needed funds to support the Ukrainian people.”

Sean Kelly states, “We stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and are deeply concerned by Putin’s invasion and the unspeakable suffering it has unleashed on the Ukrainian people. Marina has made work in Ukraine and has many ties to the area. We condemn this act of aggression and support Direct Relief’s humanitarian efforts. We are honored to collaborate with Marina, Marco Anelli, Artsy and Baobab Frames to raise funds in support of the people of Ukraine.”

In October 2021, the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center, Kyiv, Ukraine, unveiled Abramović’s *The Crystal Wall of Crying*, an interactive “wall of healing.” The 40-meter structure made of coal with crystals protruding from it commemorates the Jewish people killed in Ukraine’s capital during one of the biggest massacres of the Holocaust.

All proceeds from the auction will be sent to Direct Relief in Ukraine. To show our further support for Ukraine’s citizens, Sean Kelly Gallery will make donations to Direct Relief via a GoFundMe page.

Direct Relief has a long history of responding to humanitarian crises. They are now working directly with Ukraine’s Ministry of Health and other on-the-ground partners to provide urgently needed medical aid, including emergency response packs intended for first responders, oxygen concentrators, critical care medicines, and much more.

Thank you to Marina Abramović, all the staff at Sean Kelly Gallery, Marco Anelli, and the teams at Artsy and Baobab Frames & Art Services, Inc., for donating their time and services.

For additional information and to place a bid, please visit artsy.net/marinaabramovicforukraine

To make a donation, please visit GoFundMe.com

For information on Direct Relief, please visit directrelief.org/emergency/ukraine-crisis

For all other inquiries, please email info@skny.com

Image caption: Installation view of Marina Abramović: *Performative* at Sean Kelly, New York, March 4 – April 16, 2022, Photography: Jason Wyche, New York, Courtesy: Sean Kelly, New York