Maks Levin: The Final Photographs at the Wadsworth
Ukrainian photographer’s last images from the field

On view January 25–May 5, 2024

HARTFORD, Conn. (December 6, 2023) – The Wadsworth will display a selection of the last images taken by Ukrainian photographer Maksym (‘Maks’) Yevhenovych Levin (1980-2022) before he was found dead in a forest north of Kyiv. Reporters Without Borders concluded that Levin had been captured and killed by Russian soldiers. The fifteen photographs in this exhibition, taken in the environs of Kyiv, captured the first weeks of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

“As war and its accompanying horrors persist in Ukraine, it is possible for us to become fatigued by the news, and develop a strong urge to look away. These images by Maks Levin demand our attention. They bring the realities of life during conflict into sharp view and cause us to marvel at the bravery of this intrepid photojournalist and his countrymen,” said Matthew Hargraves, Director of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art.
Up until his death, Levin had devoted nearly a decade to journalism, chronicling the unfolding history of Ukraine with his camera. His photojournalism became well known through its wide circulation in Ukrainian media as well as through global news agencies such as the BBC, Associated Press, and Reuters. When Russia invaded Crimea and the Donbas in 2014, Levin shifted his focus to war photography, a practice that intensified with the full invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. Levin disappeared on March 13, 2022, last seen near the village of Moshchun attempting to recover a camera drone that was shooting images of the Russian invasion.

Levin was posthumously awarded the Order of Courage (Third Degree) by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy “for personal courage and selfless actions shown during the coverage of Russian aggression.”

Presented in partnership with the Center for Persecuted Arts, Solingen.

About the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Founded in 1842 with a vision for infusing art into the American experience, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is home to a collection of nearly 50,000 works of art spanning 5,000 years and encompassing European art from antiquity through contemporary as well as American art from the 1600s to today. The Wadsworth Atheneum’s five connected buildings—representing architectural styles including Gothic Revival, modern International Style, and 1960s Brutalism—are located at 600 Main Street in Hartford, Conn.

Current hours are noon–5pm Thursday–Sunday. The Auerbach Art Library is open by appointment only. Admission: $20; discounts for students, and seniors. Free admission for members and Hartford residents with Wadsworth Welcome registration. A fundraising surcharge applies during Festival of Trees & Traditions (November 30–December 10, 2023). Advance ticket registration via thewadsworth.org is encouraged, not required. Phone: (860) 278-2670; website: thewadsworth.org.

Image: Maks Levin, *Clouds of smoke over oil warehouse on an air base that was shelled at night by Russian forces; Vasylkiv, Kiev province*, February 2022. Courtesy of the Center for Persecuted Arts, Solingen

High resolution image files available upon request. Email jessica.kelley@thewadsworth.org.

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