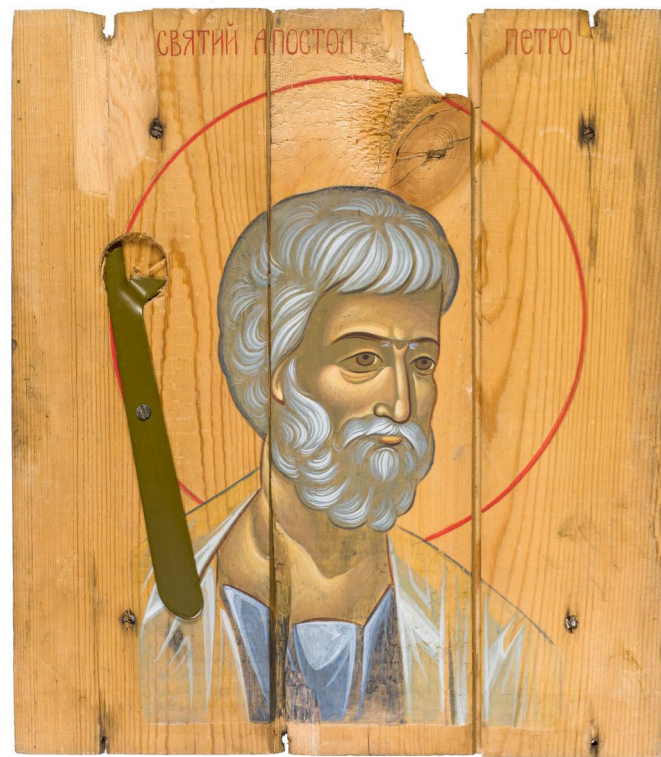


These icons are like coins: they have two sides. Not literally two sides painted, as some icons have, but two aspects that make them unique. First, they are beautiful pieces of art painted by a talented couple of Oleksandr Klymenko and Sofia Atlantova. Stylistically, they blend modern motifs and traditional patterns that go back to Byzantine masters. The second important aspect of this collection is its story. Or better to say, many stories that comprise a single narrative of war and peace, human sufferings and hope. The icons have been painted on wooden planks from ammo boxes. Those boxes were used in the eastern front, where Ukraine is at war with Russia-backed separatist groups. The icons painted on those boxes thus try to bring hope for peace and justice to the tormented East of the country. This is not the only story that the icons can tell. Sales from them go to the Pirogov First Volunteer Mobile Hospital (PFVMH). This is a non-governmental project, which brings doctors to the eastern frontline. There, they help wounded and ill: both the Ukrainian soldiers and civil locals. The icons on ammo boxes, thus, demonstrate how violence and pain can be transfigured to peace and relief, and actually contribute to this transfiguration through the work of doctors.

Archimandrite Cyril Hovorun  
 Prof. at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles  
 Act. Director of Huffington Ecumenical Institute



Oleksandr Klymenko. SAINT APOSTLE PETER  
 35 × 40 cm. AKM ammunition box lid, tempera.  
 Board origin: unknown. The box was a present given  
 by officers of the Interior Ministry of Ukraine.

**The Icons on Ammo Boxes project** have been exhibited at nearly 50 locations in 25 cities on both sides of the Atlantic.

**The project is now the main sponsor of the PFVMH.**

PIROGOV FIRST VOLUNTEER MOBILE HOSPITAL (PFVMH) is the largest nongovernmental project engaging civil health professionals in the provision of medical assistance in the zone of the armed conflict with Russia in Eastern Ukraine. During its operation in the war zone, the PFVMH has provided timely and skilled medical care to over 50,000 patients. The hospital has been stationed in 49 locations in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts — in cities and villages as well as in the field. Find more at: <http://www.medbat.org.ua/en>

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On the cover: Sofia Atlantova. SAINT DEMETRIOS OF THESSALONIKI. Fragment.  
 36 × 53 cm. Ammunition box fragment, tempera.



## THE ICONS ON AMMO BOXES

BY SOFIA ATLANTOVA  
 AND OLEKSANDR KLYMENKO

**SOFIA ATLANTOVA** (born on Dec. 14, 1981 in Kyiv) is an artist and a writer. Studied in the Kyiv Shevchenko State Art School and the National Academy of Art and Architecture. Sofia Atlantova works in the field of monumental and easel art, book illustration and installation art. She is a participant in a number of exhibitions in Ukraine and abroad.

**OLEKSANDR KLYMENKO** (born on July 5, 1976 in Kyiv) is an artist and art critic, a writer (under the pseudonym of Olaf Clemensen) and a member of the Ukrainian Union of Artists. Decorated with a medal "For Assistance to the Armed Forces of Ukraine" for the Icons on Ammo Boxes art project. He graduated from the National Academy of Art and Architecture in 1998 and completed a post-graduate course at the Rylskyi Institute of Art History, Folklore and Ethnography in 2002. Worked as a teacher at the Kyiv Boychuk State Institute of Decorative and Applied Arts and Design and at the High Humanitarian and Theological Courses in Kyiv. Oleksandr Klymenko is the author of the introductory article to the album "Jewel Art of Ukraine" (Kyiv, 2000), a series of articles on art history and a book "The ATO Summer" (Kyiv, 2015).

Oleksandr Klymenko works in the field of monumental and easel arts. He has participated in exhibitions in Ukraine and abroad, and organized a number of literary and art actions and performances. He is the author of the idea and one of the curators of the Icons on Ammo Boxes project.



**Oleksandr Klymenko. SAINT GEORGE AND THE DRAGON**  
48 × 53 cm. Weaponry box fragment, tempera. Board origin: Avdiyivka Industrial Zone.



**Oleksandr Klymenko. OUR LADY WITH THE CHILD**  
49 × 55 cm. Weaponry box fragment, tempera. Board origin: Avdiyivka Industrial Zone. The box was brought by PFVMH staff.



**Oleksandr Klymenko. SAINT ANTHONY THE GREAT**  
35 × 40 cm. AKM ammunition box bottom, tempera. Board origin: unknown. The box was a present given by officers of the Interior Ministry of Ukraine.



**Oleksandr Klymenko. THE SAVIOR**  
39 × 112 cm. Ammunition box fragment, tempera. Board origin: Popasna. The box was brought by PFVMH staff.



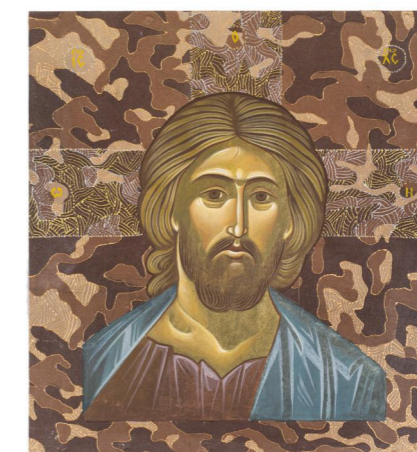
**Oleksandr Klymenko. OUR LADY OF VOLYN**  
49 × 53,5 cm. Weaponry box fragment, tempera. Board origin: Avdiyivka Industrial Zone.



**Oleksandr Klymenko. THE HOLY FACE**  
45 × 51 cm. Ammunition box fragment, tempera, charcoal. Board origin: Bakhmut. The box was brought by PFVMH staff.



**Sofia Atlantova. THE CROP SAVER**  
47 × 53 cm. Ammunition box fragment, tempera. Board origin: Avdiyivka Industrial Zone. The box was brought by PFVMH staff.



**Oleksandr Klymenko. THE SAVIOR**  
45 × 51 cm. Ammunition box fragment, camouflage fabric, author's technique. Board origin: Avdiyivka Industrial Zone. The box was brought by PFVMH staff.



**Sofia Atlantova. OUR LADY OF THE GATE OF DAWN**  
46 × 51 cm. Ammunition box fragment, tempera. Board origin: Avdiyivka Industrial Zone. The box was brought by PFVMH staff.