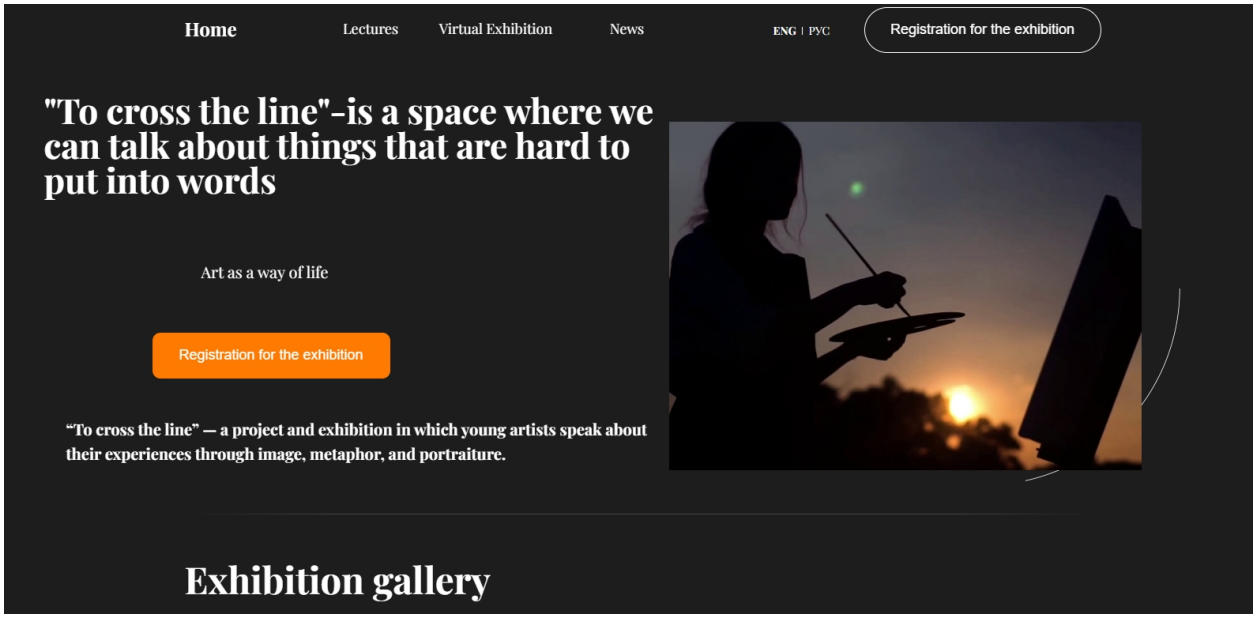
To Cross the Line: When Art Says What Words Cannot

Adolescence is a time when we are trying to understand ourselves and find our place in the world. Many of the emotions we experience during these years are difficult to explain, even to ourselves, and sharing them with others can be even harder. I believe art gives us another language for doing this. Through a drawing or another form of creative expression, we can step back from our emotions, begin to understand and accept them, and, if we choose, share them with others.



https://artreflect.space/virtual-exhibition/en

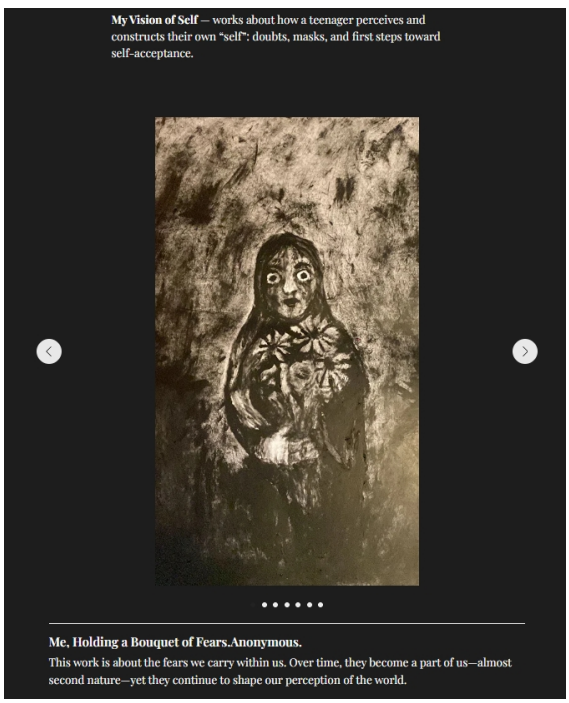
How the Idea Began

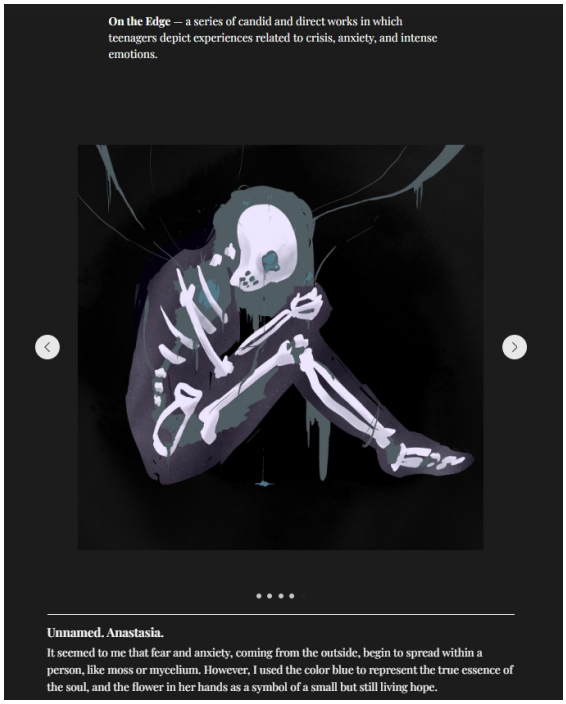
The idea for *To Cross the Line* grew out of my own experience and my interest in art. Over time, I began to see that art can be more than something we study or create simply because it is beautiful. Sometimes it can express something for which we cannot easily find words.
I wanted to create a space where teenagers could share their experiences through art without worrying that their work was not professional enough or that someone might judge what they were feeling. At the same time, I wanted viewers to see more than just a drawing. I wanted them to think about the person and the story behind it. This gradually became the idea for a virtual exhibition where art could become the beginning of a conversation between the artist and the viewer.

How *to Cross the Line* Works

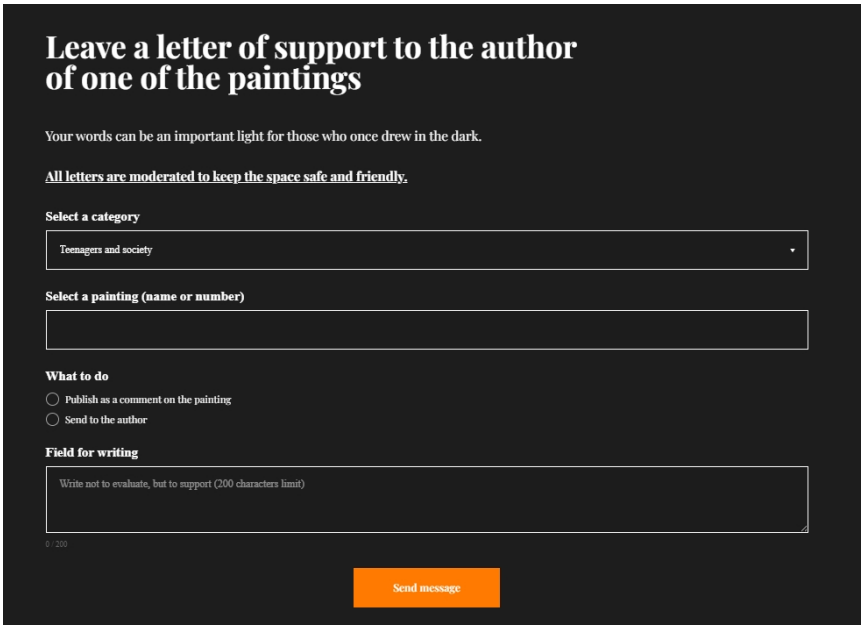
To Cross the Line is an online space where teenagers and young people can share artworks created during meaningful or difficult periods in their lives and explain the emotions and thoughts connected to them. I did not want it to be simply a gallery of images. The story behind each work matters too, because it can help the viewer see the artwork differently and understand something about the person who created it.
Participants can also submit their work anonymously. This was important to me because sometimes people have something they want to express but are not yet ready to connect that

story with their name.
The exhibition also allows visitors to respond. They can leave comments or messages for the artists -sharing their thoughts, offering support, or simply letting someone know that their work has been seen and understood. In this way, the exhibition becomes more than a place to display art. It becomes a space for communication, built around a simple idea: someone going through a difficult time should be able to see that they are not necessarily alone in what they feel.





Examples of artworks



What I Learned

Art has taught me to look at things from different perspectives. It helps me understand not only paintings and history, but also people. Sometimes a single work of art can reveal more about a person than a long conversation.

This is also reflected in the exhibition's title-"To Cross the Line." We often see only the image itself-its subject, color, or technique, without giving much thought to the experiences of the person who created it. I wanted to invite viewers to look deeper beyond the surface of the image and see the human story behind it.

What Comes Next

I want *To Cross the Line* to continue growing: I hope to see new participants, themed exhibitions, and collaborative projects with young artists from different countries. Several Kazakhstani media outlets have already covered the exhibition, and I'm pleased to see that the project's concept is generating interest beyond Kazakhstan's borders.

And you don't have to create "perfect" art to participate. Sometimes it's precisely the most sincere and deeply personal work that resonates most strongly with others.

About Me



Yaroslav Kolomytsev

I am a high school student from Kazakhstan, and I am interested in the history of art, culture, and scientific research. In his projects, he pays special attention to how art reflects human experience and helps people understand each other. Yaroslav is the creator and curator of the virtual exhibition "To Cross the Line" and the author of research projects in the field of art history.