



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - *Icons on Ammo Boxes: Transforming Death into Life***

**An extraordinary art exhibition of religious icons painted onto used ammunition crates from Ukraine, goes on display at Ely Cathedral.**

Icons painted on ammunition boxes taken from the frontline in Ukraine, will be on display at Ely Cathedral for two weeks from Tuesday 20 January.

Since its launch, this extraordinary exhibition, *Icons on Ammo Boxes*, has been shown in over 20 countries, as well as being on display in the EU Parliament and at the 2023 NATO Summit. The artists paint the icons on the lids, bottoms, and other fragments of wooden boxes that used to store various types of ammunition and weaponry. The boards are brought from the combat zone by PFVMH (Pirogov First Volunteer Mobile Hospital) volunteers as well as servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the National Guards of Ukraine.

This innovative project is the inspiration of two Kyivan artists and spouses, Sofia Atlantova and Oleksandr Klymenko, who are graduates of the National Academy of Fine Art and Architecture, and both live and work in Kyiv. Speaking to Reuters, Klymenko said: "It was important for me to show people that the war is real, that this ammunition box is real, and it stored real weapons that killed real people." He then went on to say: "I don't want this war to exist. And I don't want this project to exist either."

All the paintings in the exhibition are available to buy and have already attracted a lot of interest and have included a purchase by King Charles. All the money raised from the sale of the art goes to providing medical aid to both militants and civilians in the armed conflict areas in Eastern Ukraine.

A Cathedral spokes person said : "The artwork is not only stunning and truly unique, each painting shares a poignant message about war, peace, human suffering and above all, hope. It is heartening to see something beautiful can have been created from something so devastating, and that through buying a piece of this art you are helping, in a small way, alleviate some of the suffering of those caught up in this conflict"

There is free access to the exhibition which can be found in the South West Transept of Ely Cathedral. It will run from Tuesday 20 January to Sunday 01 February 2026.

**ENDS**

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**About Ely Cathedral**

Highly regarded by historians and architects from all over the world for its beauty and size, Ely Cathedral is widely acknowledged as 'one of the wonders of the Medieval world'. Visible for miles around, the

Cathedral is often referred to as 'The Ship of the Fens'.

The present building dates from 1081 and is a remarkable example of both Romanesque and Norman architecture. In addition to its unique Octagon Tower and magnificent Lady Chapel, Ely has the third longest nave of any UK Cathedral. The Cathedral's role today is not so far removed from its days as a Benedictine monastery and offers regular daily worship with a special emphasis on choral music.

As well as being a major visitor attraction, the Cathedral serves as a cultural focal point for East Anglia by providing a unique venue for the arts & music, for exhibitions, concerts and theatre. Most recently Ely has gained global recognition a prominent film location including *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*, *The Other Boleyn Girl*, *Macbeth*, *The King's Speech*, *The Crown* and, more recently, *Maestro*.