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### **SCIENTIFIC VECTOR OF VARIOUS SPHERE' DEVELOPMENT: REALITY AND FUTURE TRENDS**

held on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026 by

NGO European Scientific Platform (Vinnytsia, Ukraine)  
LLC International Centre Corporate Management (Vienna, Austria)

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МІЖНАРОДНИЙ НАУКОВИЙ ЖУРНАЛ

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№ **62** (лютий, 2026)

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SPHERE' DEVELOPMENT:  
REALITY AND FUTURE TRENDS**

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# THE ARTISTIC PRACTICE OF LEONID BERNAT WITHIN THE PARADIGM OF TRANSFORMATION OF THE UKRAINIAN ART SPACE

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**Summary.** *The article examines the artistic and pedagogical work of the Ukrainian artist and educator Leonid Bernat in the context of the development of contemporary Ukrainian art from the late twentieth to the early twenty-first century. The main stages of his professional formation are analyzed, with particular attention paid to his artistic education and the influence of academic traditions on the development of his individual artistic language. The study outlines the key areas of the artist's creative practice, including painting, graphic art, poster design, gesso (levkas), monumental-decorative art, and photographic graphics, emphasizing their role in expanding the boundaries of contemporary visual culture. Special attention is given to Bernat's exhibition activity, his participation in national and international art projects, and the presence of his works in museum and private collections. The article also highlights his pedagogical and expert activities, which contribute to the professional training of young artists and designers. The research concludes that Leonid Bernat's work represents a coherent and multifaceted phenomenon and constitutes an important contribution to the development of contemporary Ukrainian visual art and art education.*

**Keywords:** *Leonid Bernat; contemporary Ukrainian art; painting; graphic art; levkas; exhibition activity; art education.*

Leonid Anatoliyovych Bernat is a Ukrainian artist and educator, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Fine Arts of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Design at Borys

Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan University. He began his artistic education at the Taras Shevchenko Republican Secondary Art School, which he graduated from in 1980. From 1980 to 1982, he studied in the private studio of the renowned Ukrainian artist Viktor Zaretskyi, which significantly influenced the formation of his artistic worldview. In 1990, he graduated from the Graphic Arts Faculty of the Kyiv State Art Institute, receiving professional training in the poster studio of T. A. Liashchuk. His professional education combined academic traditions with contemporary visual practices.

In 2000, Leonid Bernat became a member of the National Union of Artists of Ukraine. In 2005, he joined the All-Ukrainian Association of Artists "BZh-ART." Since 2007, he has been a member of the international association of artists "Sztuka Bez Granic" (Poland). The artist's creative activity is closely connected with the development of alternative artistic initiatives in Ukraine. Pedagogical work occupies an important place in his professional biography. From 2011 to 2024, he worked as Senior Lecturer and Associate Professor at the Department of Graphic Design of the Mykhailo Boichuk Kyiv State Academy of Decorative and Applied Arts and Design, where he actively combined teaching with creative and exhibition activities. From 2017 to 2024, he held the position of Associate Professor at the Department of Drawing and Painting at the Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design.

In his pedagogical practice, he pays particular attention to the disciplines "Drawing" and "Painting." His teaching activity is based on a synthesis of academic methods and authorial approaches. Considerable attention is devoted to the development of students' individual artistic thinking. Leonid Bernat consistently supports the idea of interdisciplinarity in art education. His professional experience encompasses both educational and creative institutions. The artist is actively involved in the artistic environment of Ukraine and the international cultural space. The creative and pedagogical activity of Leonid Bernat constitutes a coherent professional body of work. His activity contributes to the preservation and development of contemporary artistic practices. The artist's biography reflects the continuity of the Ukrainian art school and its openness to the European context.



Leonid Bernat works in the field of painting, encompassing both easel and experimental directions, including the technique of levkas. A significant place in his oeuvre is occupied by graphic art, which includes drawing, easel graphics, poster art, book illustration, and photographic graphics. In his artistic practice, he also engages with monumental-decorative and sculptural art, thus expanding the boundaries of traditional artistic forms. The artist's creative output is characterized by a diversity of techniques and genres, as well as by a consistent synthesis of academic foundations and experimental approaches. His works are held in the collections of the National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture, in museum and private collections in Ukraine and abroad.

Leonid Bernat is an active participant in the artistic process and has taken part in more than fifty national and international exhibitions. Exhibition activity constitutes an important component of his professional work, including the organization and realization of more than ten solo exhibitions. The total volume of the artist's creative legacy exceeds seven hundred works of painting and graphic art. Taken together, these works form a coherent and recognizable authorial corpus. Leonid Bernat's oeuvre occupies a notable place in the contemporary Ukrainian artistic context.



Leonid Bernat's exhibition activity spans the period from the late 1980s and has a pronounced international character. The artist is the author of fourteen solo exhibitions held in leading galleries and museum spaces in Kyiv, Chernivtsi, and Germany. Among them are the projects *The World of Levkas*, *Déjà Vu*, *Anahata*, *The Dream of Europe*, and *Dendrochronology*, which testify to the consistent development of his artistic language and his interest in experimental techniques. Leonid Bernat has participated in more than fifty national and international group exhibitions, art festivals, biennales, triennials, and plein airs in Ukraine, Poland, Germany, Austria, Canada, Bulgaria, France, Croatia, Slovakia, Lithuania, Spain, and the United States.

His works have repeatedly been exhibited at the Central House of Artists, the Ukrainian House, the Triptych Gallery, the Parsuna Gallery, the White World Gallery, the Dukat Gallery, the Soviart Center for Contemporary Art, as well as in international cultural institutions. The artist has also acted as a curator of artistic projects, including within the framework of the *Fine Art Ukraine* festival.

Works by Leonid Bernat are held in public and private collections in Ukraine and abroad, including the National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture, the National Museum "Kyiv Picture Gallery," the Zaporizhzhia Art Museum, the Museum of Ukrainian Painting in Dnipro, the Plast-Art Museum of Contemporary Art in Chernihiv, the House-Museum of M. Voloshyn in Koktebel, as well as in private collections in the United States.



Leonid Bernat is the author of illustrations for a number of literary and artistic publications, including books by Viktor Prykhodko, as well as children's books and calendar editions. In the field of graphic design, he has produced printed editions and posters, including those for feature films and solo exhibitions, which demonstrates his active presence in the public visual space.

The professional and public activity of Leonid Bernat has been recognized with numerous honorary awards and distinctions. In 2019, he received a Letter of Appreciation from the Mayor of Kyiv, Vitalii Klitschko, for his contribution to the development of culture and art education. In 2020, he was awarded a Certificate of Merit by the Mykhailo Boichuk Kyiv State Academy of Decorative and Applied Arts and Design. In 2021, he became a laureate of the International Eco-Poster Competition organized with the participation of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. In 2023, Leonid Bernat was awarded an Honorary Certificate of the Mykhailo Boichuk KSADAA&D, and in the same year he received an Honorary Certificate from the National Union of Artists of Ukraine. In 2023, the artist was also awarded a special distinction of the Third All-Ukrainian Triennial of Levkas in Kyiv, which confirmed the national-level recognition of his artistic achievements.

Expert activity occupies a significant place in Leonid Bernat's professional work. From 2017 to 2021, he served for five consecutive years as the Chair of the Jury of

the All-Ukrainian Poster Competition “I Am Ukraine,” which testifies to a high level of professional trust and authority in the field of visual culture. In 2022, he was involved as a member of the commission for artistic and technical expertise of competitive selections of textbooks for general secondary education institutions (Grades 5 and 9) within the expert commission of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the State Scientific Institution “Institute of Education Content Modernization.” In 2023, Leonid Bernat chaired the jury of the All-Ukrainian Art Competition “Christmas Miniatures” in the nomination “Fine Arts,” organized by the Kyiv City Methodological Center of Cultural and Educational Institutions. In the same year, he was a member of the jury of the creative blitz competition for the selection of an emblem for the Kyiv City Prosthetics Center. The artist’s expert activity combines professional evaluation of artistic projects, educational materials, and socially significant cultural initiatives.



The professional activity of Leonid Bernat constitutes a coherent and multidimensional phenomenon in the contemporary Ukrainian artistic space. The combination of solid academic education, active creative practice, and many years of pedagogical work has shaped him as an artist with a distinct authorial position and stable aesthetic orientations. His creative output encompasses a wide range of artistic techniques and genres, in which traditional visual approaches are organically combined with experimental exploration. Active exhibition activity in Ukraine and abroad testifies to the artist’s integration into the international cultural context and to the social relevance of his work. Leonid Bernat’s significant pedagogical and expert experience contributes to the formation of professional competencies in the younger generation of artists and designers. His participation in professional competitions, juries, and expert commissions confirms a high level of trust on the part of the artistic and educational community. The totality of his creative,

pedagogical, and scholarly-methodological achievements allows his activity to be regarded as an important component in the development of contemporary Ukrainian fine art and art education.



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### **ТВОРЧІСТЬ ЛЕОНІДА БЕРНАТА В ПАРАДИГМІ ТРАНСФОРМАЦІЇ УКРАЇНСЬКОГО ХУДОЖНЬОГО ПРОСТОРУ**

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**Анотація.** У статті розглянуто творчий та педагогічний доробок українського художника і педагога Леоніда Берната в контексті розвитку сучасного українського мистецтва кінця ХХ — початку ХХІ століття. Проаналізовано основні етапи його професійного становлення, особливості мистецької освіти та вплив академічних традицій на формування авторської художньої мови. Окреслено провідні напрями творчості митця, зокрема живопис, графіку, плакат, левкас, монументально-декоративне мистецтво та фотографіку, а також їхню роль у розширенні меж сучасної візуальної культури. Значну увагу приділено виставковій діяльності Леоніда Берната, його участі у всеукраїнських та міжнародних мистецьких проєктах, а також присутності творів у музейних і приватних колекціях. Висвітлено педагогічну та експертну діяльність художника, що сприяє формуванню професійних компетентностей молодого покоління митців і дизайнерів. Зроблено висновок про цілісність і багатовимірність творчої постаті Леоніда Берната та його внесок у розвиток сучасного українського образотворчого мистецтва й мистецької освіти.

**Ключові слова:** Леонід Бернат; сучасне українське мистецтво; живопис; графіка; левкас; виставкова діяльність; мистецька освіта.