

03  
MAY  
2022

11:30–13:00

Université du Luxembourg  
Esch-sur-Alzette, Belval Campus  
Maison du Savoir, Room 3.040



Humanities

# Dangerous Words and Dangerous Silences: Positioning Europe at the Edge of War

Wars never happen 'just like that' or 'out of the blue'. They are the culmination of complex processes that span years and sometimes even decades. In his art, Maxim Kantor has addressed the threat embodied by the apparently seamless transition from Soviet Union to the Russian Federation and guided democracy, and his position has always been unmistakable: Vladimir Putin and the system that produced him are, and always were, dangerous.

Now more than ever, choosing the right words matters, and speaking them in situations where we would rather be silent endows the statements we make with a renewed and uncomfortable sense of moral and political weight. Understanding the circumstances that led to the Russian invasion of Ukraine requires a thoughtful engagement with historical narratives and the perspectives they present. Words are central to this process. As we choose what to say and what not to say, we contribute to the discourses that will shape the political order of tomorrow.

The discussion will be centred around a selection of paintings by Maxim Kantor, each illustrating or addressing themes or aspects of the current war between the Russian Federation and Ukraine and its impacts on human rights in Eastern Europe and beyond. Students will prepare and present discussion questions.

## ART

**Maxim KANTOR**, Adjunct-Professor, Director Fellow of Notre Dame University, Institute for Advanced Study, USA, is an internationally renowned and independent painter and writer. His new exhibition "The Rape of Europe – Maxim Kantor on Putin's Russia" (Works 1992-2022) opens at the MNHA on 28 April 2022.

## PANEL

**Robert Harmsen** is Professor of Political Science and current holder of the UNESCO Human Rights Chair.

**Inna Ganschow** is a Research Scientist specializing in Slavic Studies and Media Studies at the Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C<sup>2</sup>DH).

**Georg MEIN** is Full Professor for Modern German Literature and Theory and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Education, and Social Sciences at the University of Luxembourg.



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES,  
EDUCATION AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES