



The VEHA initiative was created in 2017 in order to draw attention to family archives as an important source of information and in the end to create a museum of Belarusian photography

veha.by

The main members of our team are:

Lesia Pcholka (born in 1989 in Borysau, Belarus) is an artist. Founder of the VEHA archive. She is in exile due to political persecution.

Lidiya Martynovych (born in 1987 in Minsk, Belarus) is a sociologist, researcher of visual culture. Editor and author of VEHA publications.

Asya Valkovich (born in 1982 in Minsk, Belarus) is a graduate of the Faculty of Philosophy, an archival photography enthusiast, the author of essays for the books "The Maiden's Night" and "People of the Forest", she was responsible collecting of the "People of the Forest" collection.

IMF Award 2017 II place "Exhibition / photo project of the year"
"For the uniqueness of the history of individual families, the restoration of family archives," - Ales Belyavets.

RADA Awards shortlist, 2018
The Best Side project has been nominated in the category "Youth Initiative / Cultural Conservation Project"

Shortlist for the Michal Anempadystaw Prize, 2018
More than 60 books were nominated for the award for the best book cover.
The book "The best side"

IMF Award 2018 III place "Publication of the Year"
"Archival photos from different parts of Belarus show the richness and diversity of Belarusian culture." - Natalia Khalanskaya

Solo exhibitions

2019
– Dziavočy viečar. FAF Gallery (Warsaw, Poland)
– Dziavočy viečar. KX Space (Brest, Belarus)

Group exhibitions

2022 – UPCOMING. Belarusian female artists. Dialog between the generations. Gallery KVOST (Berlin, Germany)
2021 – Festival SPRAVA. Museum of the Belarusian Folk Art (Raubichi, Belarus)
2019
– Heritagization. Gallery 54, Project STATUS (Sweden, Gothenburg)
– Tam gdzie Teraz. Galeria Labirynt (Lublin, Poland)
2018 – Month of Photography in Minsk. The Ź Gallery (Minsk, Belarus)
2017 – Month of Photography in Minsk. Gallery Canteen XYZ (Minsk, Belarus)

Implemented projects

2017 – 2018

The best side project ("Najlepší bok")

2018 – 2021

"Girl's Night" and "The Last Picture" ("Dziavočy večar" and "Apošni fotazdymak")

2022 – in progress

"People of the Forest"



The best side project ("Najliepšy bok")

2017 – 2018

A collection of portraits photographed against the background of hand-woven carpets. Models are mostly villagers. The pictures were taken from the early 20s till the middle of the last century around the 2nd World War. Textile elements seem to manifest a beautiful side even though, they are poor people in very difficult historical times. But do we see it? The photos depict beautifully dressed people. They seem to perform consciously important social rituals in order to pass the most attractive images of their lives for their loved ones of the future generations. 135 families from different parts of Belarus took part in this project. They sent scanned photos from their personal archives.

These photographs made material for two exhibitions in Minsk and later on were published by VEHA as a book called "The Best Side". Money for the publication was collected by a crowdfunding campaign.





UPCOMING. Belarusian female artists. Dialog between the generations. Gallery KVOST (Berlin, Germany) 2022



VEHA

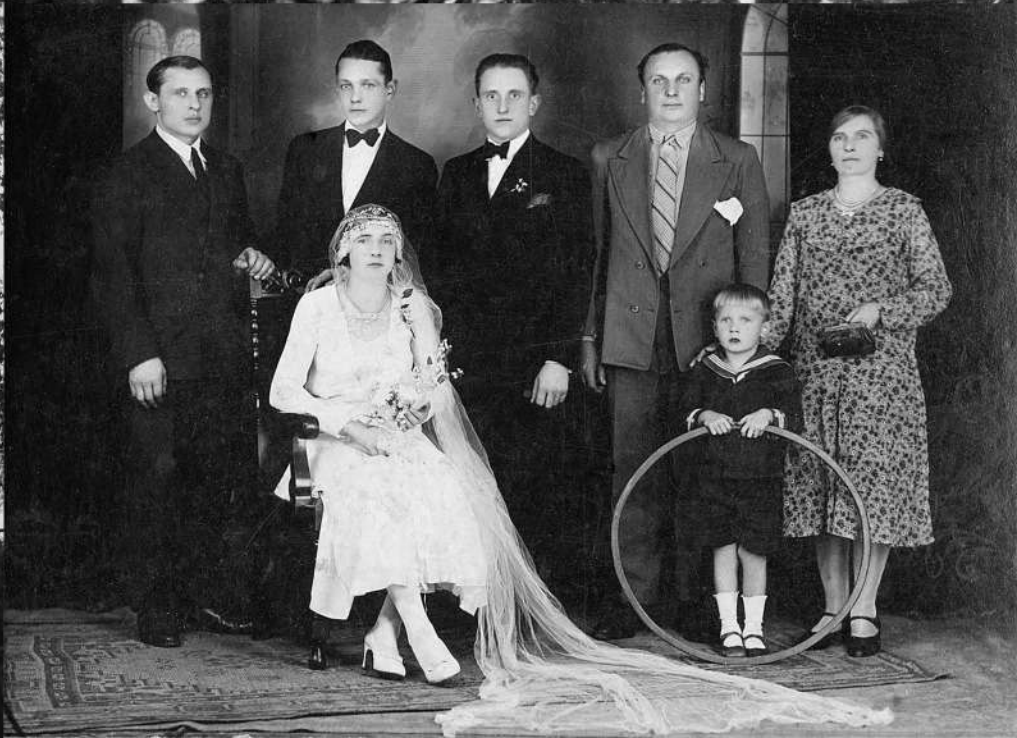
НАЙЛЕПШЫ
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"Girl's Night and the Last Picture" project
(“Dziavočy wiečar” and “Apošni fotazdymak”) 2018 – 2021

The project is dedicated to the two most important subjects of Belarusian family photography of the 20th century - wedding and funeral. The sacredness of these events determined that they were most often documented moments. The photographs served as the visual proof of marriage or of the final point of life. they documented the memory. The photographs collected by us form a retrospective representation of the 100 years of visual history of Belarus. Viewing them in chronological order makes possible to see a change in the attitude of the people towards these events. One can also follow the influence of political events on family rituals.

In the research based on this project, we examine the traditions of our ancestors through the critical lens of modernity, talking about the position of women in society, social status, and the taboo subject of death. Our collection consists of more than 1,800 photographs from various private archives. In 2021 we published VEHA books called "Girl's Night and the Last Picture" in Belarusian and English at our own expense.







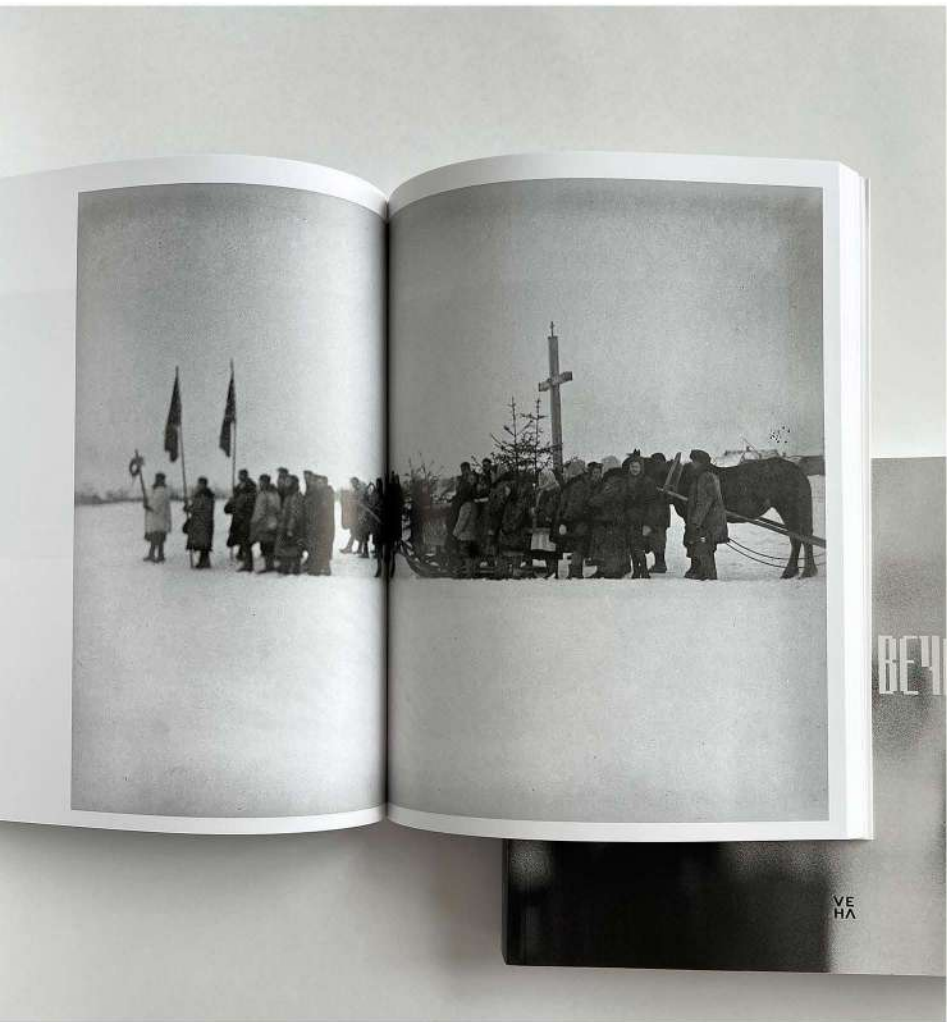
Fragment of the exhibition Tam gdzie Teraz. Galeria Labirynt (Lublin, Poland) 2019



Fragment of the exhibition "Dziavočy wiečar". FAF Gallery (Warsaw, Poland) 2019







АПОШН ФОНАЗЫН

ДЗАВОЧЫ ВЕЧАР

VE
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"People of the Forest"

2022 – in progress

This is a collection of photographs about man's relationship with wildlife, ecology, and the forest as our historical landscape. The forest has always held an important place in the history of Belarus, it has been a place of strength, an expanse of available resources. A place to hide in order to continue the struggle for one's freedom and choice. A place that becomes dangerous if one does not get out of it.

We have collected 506 photographs from various family archives. We are currently conducting research and preparing our new book for publication.

