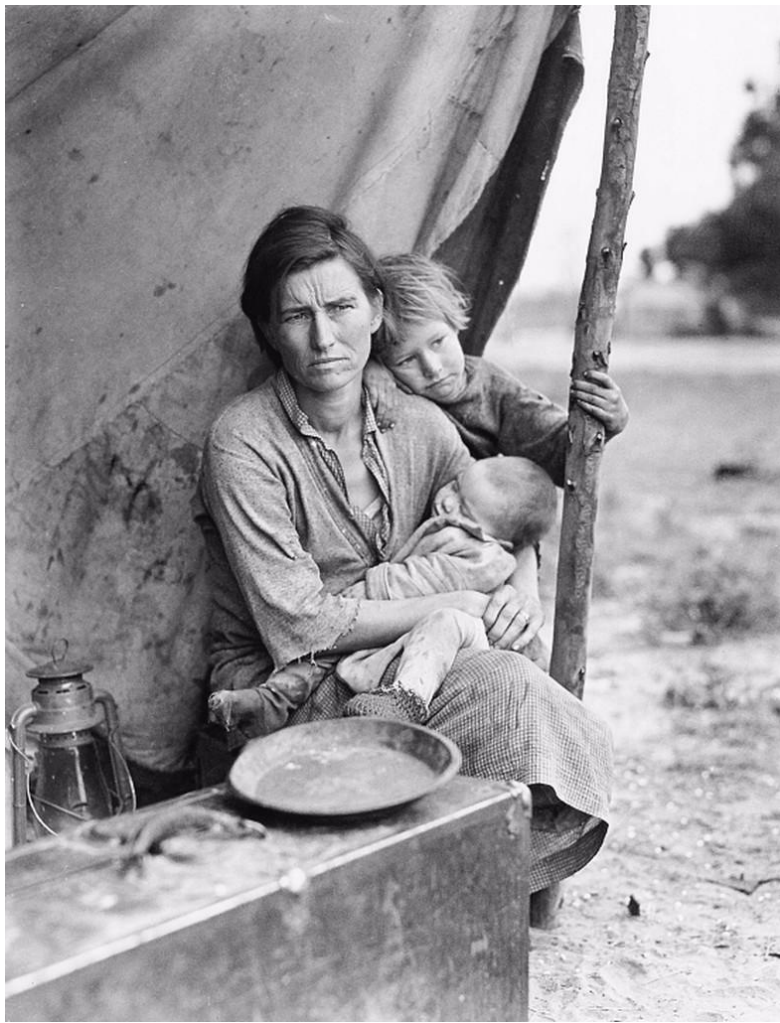


Call for peace:
Snapshots of ordinary people
during The Great Depression and
Russian invasion of Ukraine

Curatorial Statement

The collection presents snapshots of ordinary people during The Great Depression and average civilians in Ukraine during the invasion. The world has been in constant change going into the 2020s, from the outbreak of COVID-19 to all the world ensuing the endless waves of variants to the chaos in capitol hill and Russia's shocking invasion of Ukraine. People were forced to adjust their paradigm of work and life and some less-fortunate had to accept the sadness of losing family members. Although the time and location varies between the two events, the upheaval of the mid-twenty century is similar to what is occurring nowadays—A dust bowl and The Great Depression on economics analogize the hiking price and Covid. The Great Depression era was composed with elements of economic downturn and unprecedented natural disaster, The Dust Bowl, which forced people to migrate west to relocate. (Ohanian and Lee E, 1583) A Similar scene occurred in Ukraine, people flew away from home overnight, except it was purely made by humans—A Blitzkrieg by Russia. All these remind mankind of the impermanence of life.

Among all FSA photographers, Dorothea Lange captured some of the most impactful pictures of the time since she personally suffered from polio (Fluck, Abstract). Her own disability makes her more sympathetic to the pain of others and closer to her subjects. Stoic, hopeless, furious, all these emotions are well depicted in her picture which are also seen in snapshots of common Ukrainian. Behind the scenes there are many heart-warming stories among ordinary people. The exhibition's theme is to remind people to love peace. Because peaceful time is like air and sunshine, people benefit without realizing it, only to learn it is hard to keep after losing it. Although History cannot be rewritten, a peaceful future can be created under the unity of mankind.



There were five photos taken of this female and this is one of four which weren't published. The central position of the mother, the absence of the father, the direction of the mother's line of sight, and the head tilting of the child add emotion and sensibility to the image, making the image full of charm. This particular one aids people's homage for the mother figure in general during a tough time.

Dorothea Lange. 1936. Migrant Mother.
https://library.artstor.org/asset/LOCEON_1039795887.



This snapshot was taken by Lynsey Addario in a basement shelter in Ukraine. Some elements like tight brows, father's absence, haggard face, thin clothes were also seen in the work of *Migrant Mother*. The concerns of mother is well rendered in the photo as she is away from her home which is close to Kyiv airport, increasing people's resentment of invasion.

Lynsey Addario, photograph, New York Times, Feb. 28, 2022.

<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/02/28/world/ukraine-russia-war#in-the-basement-shelter-of-a-childrens-hospital-in-kyiv-a-vivid-reminder-of-the-costs-of-war>

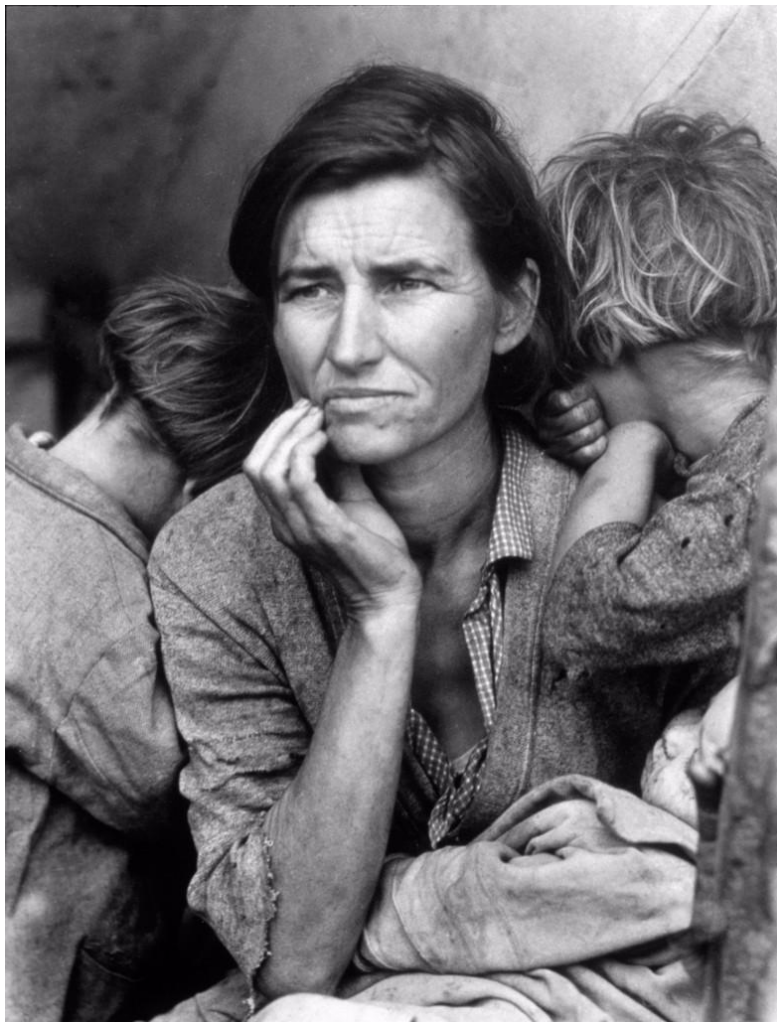


A Ukrainian soldier in the eastern part of the country. Tensions between Ukraine and Russia have been simmering since 2014. By contrast the light on top half of the body and submerge his lower half in the shadow. This photo depicts a young soldier's apprehension about when war will break out and his defense posture suggested his struggle of fighting.



Families in Kyiv have fled to an underground subway station, where many have been living for about a week as Russian forces continue to attack and encircle the capital. It reminds people the similar scene during The Great Depression that many people have to live in camp due to drought which the environment was significantly worse than house.

Lynsey Addario, photograph, The New York times,
<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/03/02/world/ukraine-russia-war>



Dorothea Lange is known for her work for the Farm Security Administration. This one is the most known among all other works.

The iconic photo depicts a melancholy, wrinkled woman and her two children who sunk their heads behind her and fell asleep in her arms. It perfectly interprets people's frustration and despair over the plight of the time.

Dorothea Lange. 1936. Migrant Mother, Nipomo, California. Photographs. Place: Collection Susie Tompkins Buell. https://library.artstor.org/asset/LARRY_QUALLS_10310502903.



Ukrainian refugees crossed the border from Shehyni in Ukraine to Medyka in Poland on Friday. The paved way grooves before this family look wet and the grooves behind them are dry, such depiction implies their roads ahead may be uneasy.

Michael Kappeler/DPA, photograph, Zuma Press,
https://www.wsj.com/articles/ukrainian-capital-rocked-by-explosions-as-russia-intensifies-attack-11645771768?st=wijzk0jz6ienlxh&reflink=desktopwebshare_twitter



Residents of Dachne, a small village just north of Odessa, pick up the pieces after a bombing that killed one person on Tuesday. Much like the environment during The Great Depression, surrounding is not in good condition. People have to utilize all sorts of means to survive.



This well suited stylish lady contrasted distinctively with the messy grass shed background. Despite being forced to leave her native place, her passion for live was not seems to be worn out. In particular, her hair style must be her favorite as it could be time-costly without help of professionals. As spring always puts an end to winter. Optimism guide people out of desperate.

Dorothea Lange. February and March 1937. A drought refugee living in a camp.
https://library.artstor.org/asset/LOCEON_1039795877.



Husband comforts his wife, which shall be one of the happiest moments in life-witnessing their newborn baby , is now greeted against the backdrop of violence, fear and war. It seems they were happy at the moment as their sight all towards the newborn, as it is the first time seeing their baby.



Anna Rogachova 34 embracing her mother Viktoria Tkatchenko 54, on Tuesday after leaving Odessa. Anna is going to Germany, while Viktoria is staying in Moldova. According to the United Nations refugee agency, more than 870,000 people have fled Ukraine since the Russian incursion began. The dark tone and the snowy weather cast gloom to the picture. What sadden more is the mother's refluent facial expression of daughter's departure.

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