

LILYA MATVEEVA

VISUAL NARRATIVE ARTIST

BERLIN

riryasan@gmail.com
Instagram: @risburlit
lilyamatveeva.com
Languages: Russian (native),
English (fluent), Polish (B2),
German (B2)

PROFILE

Visual narrative artist based in Berlin, working across illustration, book projects and painting.

My artistic practice focuses on layered visual storytelling that connects human experience, memory and contemporary life.

My work moves between personal narratives, documentary memory work and urban environments. I create immersive, atmospheric visual worlds that combine emotional depth, historical awareness and close observation.

Memberships: BBK Berlin (Professional Association of Visual Artists), Illustratoren Organisation e.V.

EDUCATION

2025 - present

Online painting studio
RADIOPAINT (ongoing
training in painting)

2020 - 2022

British Higher School
of Art & Design, Moscow
Diploma in Illustration

2006 - 2011

Siberian Federal University,
Krasnoyarsk
Philology – Polish language,
culture and literature

WORK HISTORY

2012 - present

Freelance artist & illustrator

Freelance artist & illustrator
Editorial, cultural and NGO projects
(Transparency International and the
Polish Cultural Centre Moscow)

2021 - 2024

Illustrator for Memorial
(historical and human rights
organisation in Russia)

Since March 2022 Based in Berlin

political exile, German language
studies; first exhibition in Berlin
(October 2022: Comic Invasion)

2023 - 2024

Comic artist, Gedenk- und Bildungsstätte Andreasstraße, Erfurt

Work on the graphic novel
"Rose+Robert. Liebe in Zeiten der
Kriege"

2024 - 2025

Collaborations with Amnesty
International, Civil Society Forum
and other cultural institution

2025

Publication of the graphic novel Rose+Robert. Liebe in Zeiten der Kriege (Schiler & Mücke)

followed by readings and book
presentations at cultural and
educational institutions across Germany

EXHIBITIONS

September 2026

Exhibition and book presentation Rajantakaiset – Kuvia rajan takaa, Joensuu (1 Sept.) and Helsinki (5 Sept. – pop-up exhibition)

August 2026

Exhibition Kuvia rajan takaa (Pictures from Beyond the Border), NorPas Festival, Taalintehdas, Finland (7–9 Aug.)

2026 – 2027 (planned) Further exhibitions and book presentations of the project across Finland

May 2024

Exhibition featuring illustrations from the graphic novel Rose+Robert. Liebe in Zeiten der Kriege, Erfurt

September 2024

Large-scale street exhibition on political prisoners in Russia, Putinova klec (GULAG.CZ, Prague)

September 2023

Solo exhibition and artist talk, ReForum Space, Berlin (supported by Memorial Zukunft)

2022 – 2025

Group and solo exhibitions in Germany, Czech Republic, Finland, Switzerland, France and Italy

PUBLICATIONS & OTHER PROJECTS

August 2026

Illustrations for Rajantakaiset – Matkapäiväkirja suljetun itärajan takaa

Text: Anna Jarovaja, translation & editing: Kerttu Matinpuro

Publishers: Rosebud & Suomen Rauhanpuolustajat (Peace Union of Finland)

Supported by Kone Foundation in 2025 (Koneen Säätiö)

2025

Contribution to a collective publication by anti-war women artists:

Artistes en résistance – French anti-war anthology

(Éditions Arléve, Paris)

2025

Publication of the graphic novel Rose+Robert. Liebe in Zeiten der Kriege (Schiler & Mücke)

CURRENT WORK. 2025–PRESENT

Ongoing painting practice in oil, watercolor and gouache, exploring urban fauna and shared habitats through close observation of living systems and the relationship between human and non-human life in the city.