



Maru Jarockyj's colourful Ukrainian-inspired art is on display at Docklands. Picture: Mark Stewart

## YOU CAN TAKE THE ARTIST OUT OF UKRAINE, BUT ...

### JOHN MASANAUSKAS

FOR Melbourne architect Maru Jarockyj, her art exhibition *Ukrainian DNA* is a political statement.

"This is a call-out saying, 'hey, Ukrainian DNA is something you can't exterminate'," she said.

"It's something that is eternal, and it doesn't matter where you are, in

any country. It doesn't matter how many wars Russia wages against Ukraine, it is never going to win."

As Russia continues its bloody invasion of her ancestral homeland, Ms Jarockyj's exhibition at Docklands covers a range of Ukrainian themes.

Her colourful paintings reference things like the Chernobyl nuclear plant accident, and the Holodomor - a

Soviet-enforced famine during which millions of Ukrainians starved in the early 1930s.

Born in Britain of Ukrainian parents, Ms Jarockyj migrated to Melbourne with her family in 1981.

"Australia is paradise, I don't care what anybody says - for Ukrainians and other multicultural communities your DNA can flourish here," she said.

"I can contribute by keeping the Ukrainian spirit alive and increasing awareness of it in broader society".

The City of Melbourne said there was a need "to celebrate work that inspires, connects and focuses on the vibrancy of humanity".

The exhibition runs until January 12 at Library at the Dock on Victoria Harbour Promenade.