

## Maria Vashchuk

Leipzig International Art Program

*November 2020 – January 2021*

My stay at LIA-Program was possible with help from Stichting Gerbrandy Cultuurfonds. I stayed in an art residency in Spinnerei for three months. During my stay, I had a massive studio of 83 m2 in one of a former cotton mill factory buildings.

Spinnerei is home to about one hundred artists' studios, fourteenth art galleries, creative offices; at the territory of the complex is even an art supply shop, cinema, and a café.

It was incredibly inspiring for me to work in this creative environment, surrounded by local artists and residents from all around the world. I could meet artists in their studios, meet gallerists and curators, and have plenty of time to read, walk in the city, and paint.



*Me in my studio at LIA-Program*



*A window view in my studio at LIA*

In the first month of my art residency the galleries were still open (the museums were closed all the time, unfortunately).

LIA-Program was organizing for us gallery visits and introduced us to the local art scene.

Every month we would also have a studio visit to one of the artists who work in Spinnerei.



*LIA residents visiting Neo Rauch "Handlauf" exhibition at EIGEN + ART gallery*

Twice a month, LIA-Program organized studio visits with art critics, professors, curators, and Anna-Louise Rolland, the founder of an art residency. It was always enriching and exciting to have a possibility to discuss my work and progress with visitors, hear a different point of view from people, who also work in the other field of art practice than me, fellow artists, and residents.

The link to a **3D-tour to my LIA studio**: [tap here](#)





*Esther Niebel, gallerist and curator, visiting me at my studio at LIA-Program*

In the second month of an art residency, LIA-Program organized an excursion to Zeist Noodle Fabric. A former noodle fabric is now being transformed, as Spinnerei in 90th, to a creative hub.

During this excursion, we could try out a virtual reality tour, software for which was developed there.



*Me during Virtual Reality tour in Zeist*



*Residents of LIA-Program*



During my residency period, I focused on creating a large-scale painting called Extended Family Portrait and a series of smaller drawings and paintings.

For Extended Family Portrait, I asked residents to pose for me in my studio as a family. I borrowed from other studios old GDR furniture and placed it in one corner of my studio. On the walls, I placed paintings of mine, which I created upon arrival to Leipzig (the paintings with the scenes from a living room in my home in Haarlem, the Netherlands). I wanted to create a domestic atmosphere in an empty industrial huge studio.



*Maria Vashchuk, Extended Family Portrait, oil on canvas, 280 x 200 cm, 2020-2021*

In the last month of my art residency period, we had an online exhibition (as a replacement for a Rundgang exhibition due to Covid-19), and there was a catalog created. Link to the catalog:

[Involution Catalog](#)

Interview with Anna-Louise Rolland



The works I created during my stay in Leipzig and my recent works from 2020-2021 were on show at Gallery Kruis-Weg68 in Haarlem from March 5th till April 10th.



*Joke Stoute and Michel van Overbeeke posing in front of Extended Family Portrait during 'De Woonkamer' show at Gallery Kruis-Weg68*