

Kazimir Malevich. Black Square



A film by Iryna Bondarchuk

PRESS KIT

FILM AT A GLANCE

Kazimir Malevich. Black Square

Title	Kazimir Malevich. Black Square
Genre	Authorial Documentary Film
Country of Production	Ukraine
Year of Production	2026
Running Time	5:28 min
Language	Ukrainian
Subtitles	English
Format	4K UHD • 16:9 • Color • Stereo
Premiere Status	World Premiere
Screenwriter • Director • Producer	Iryna Bondarchuk

Logline

A documentary that restores Kazimir Malevich to the Ukrainian cultural context by exploring the origins of his artistic vision and revealing the little-known story that preceded the creation of one of the most influential works in the history of modern art — Black Square.

Key Themes

- Kazimir Malevich
- Ukrainian Cultural Context
- History of Art
- Avant-Garde
- Cultural Memory
- Artistic Identity
- Documentary Cinema

Part of the Documentary Series

Appropriated Names

Project Mission

Restoring artists to the Ukrainian cultural context.

Production

Independent Authorial Production

Creative Technologies

- Documentary Filmmaking
- Archival Research
- Artistic Reconstruction
- Contemporary AI Technologies
- Digital Post-Production

FILM AT A GLANCE

Kazimir Malevich. Black Square

Festival Package Includes

- ✓ Festival Press Kit
- ✓ Director's Statement
- ✓ Festival Author's Synopsis
- ✓ Producer's Vision
- ✓ Artistic Approach
- ✓ Historical Background
- ✓ AI Transparency Statement
- ✓ Production Notes
- ✓ Official Poster
- ✓ Official Trailer
- ✓ Official Teaser
- ✓ Film Stills
- ✓ Director Biography
- ✓ Director Portrait

Contact

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Official Links:

FilmFreeway: <https://filmfreeway.com/IRYNABONDARCHUK>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@IRINABONDARCHUK-aicreator>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/iryna-bondarchuk-70b85a2b7/>

KAZIMIR MALEVICH

BLACK SQUARE



A FILM BY
IRYNA BONDARCHUK

An independent documentary
exploring the Ukrainian cultural
origins of one of the founders
of modern art



SHORT SYNOPSIS

Known worldwide as the creator of **Black Square**, **Kazimir Malevich** forever transformed the course of twentieth-century art. Yet his artistic journey began much earlier—among the landscapes of Ukraine, its folk culture, and artistic traditions that shaped his vision of the world.

Drawing on historical documents, archival materials, and artistic reconstruction, the film reveals little-known chapters of Malevich's life, returning him to the Ukrainian cultural context. More than the story of a single artist, it is a reflection on cultural memory, artistic heritage, and the origins of ideas that transformed modern art.

Kazimir Malevich. Black Square offers international audiences a fresh perspective on one of the most influential figures of the European avant-garde.

FESTIVAL AUTHOR'S SYNOPSIS

An extended curatorial synopsis for international film festivals and cultural institutions.

The world knows **Kazimir Malevich** as the creator of **Black Square**, one of the most influential works of twentieth-century art.

Yet the journey that led to this iconic painting began long before the birth of Suprematism. Kazimir Malevich. Black Square invites audiences to rediscover the artist through the Ukrainian cultural environment that shaped his imagination, artistic vision, and earliest aesthetic experiences.

Combining archival research, art-historical scholarship, and artistic reconstruction, the film follows Malevich's path from his Ukrainian childhood and formative years to the creation of a revolutionary visual language that transformed the history of modern art.

Rather than offering a conventional biography, the film presents an authorial exploration of cultural memory, creative identity, and the lesser-known chapters of Malevich's life, revealing a new perspective on one of the defining figures of the European avant-garde.

This is not a film about rewriting history.

It is a film about making history more complete.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I did not begin this film with the intention of telling **Kazimir Malevich's** story once again. Hundreds of books have been written about him. Numerous exhibitions and documentaries have explored his life and work. His name has long become inseparable from Black Square. Instead, I found myself asking a different question.

What shaped the artist before the creation of Black Square?

The search for this answer became the starting point of the film. The deeper I immersed myself in historical research, the more clearly I understood that no artist can be fully understood apart from the cultural environment that shaped his worldview. This is why **Kazimir Malevich. Black Square** is not a conventional biography. It is an attempt to rediscover Malevich through the world that surrounded him—his Ukrainian landscapes, family memories, artistic traditions, songs, and visual impressions that remained with him throughout his life.

For me, this is more than the story of one artist. It is a reflection on how cultural environment shapes creative identity. In creating this film, I brought together archival documents, historical research, and artistic reconstruction.

My intention was not to recreate the past literally, but to evoke its emotional presence. Documentary evidence therefore exists alongside cinematic language, music, rhythm, and visual imagery, allowing history to be experienced rather than simply observed. Contemporary artificial intelligence technologies became an important creative instrument in realizing this vision.

They helped reconstruct spaces, light, and atmospheres that no longer exist. At the same time, every stage of the creative process—from research and screenplay to directing, editing, and artistic interpretation—remained entirely author-driven. For me, artificial intelligence is not a substitute for creativity. It is another cinematic language through which history can become emotionally present for contemporary audiences.

Kazimir Malevich. Black Square forms part of my authorial documentary series **Appropriated Names**, dedicated to artists whose lives and legacies reveal new meanings when viewed through the perspective of the Ukrainian cultural context.

I do not seek to rewrite the history of art.

I seek to make it more complete.

Because every journey into an artist's life is also a journey into the cultural memory that shaped both the artist—and ourselves.

Iryna Bondarchuk

Screenwriter • Director • Art Historian



PRODUCER'S VISION

Kazimir Malevich. Black Square

Every film begins with an idea. Its future depends on the vision that brings it to life.

Kazimir Malevich. Black Square is an independent authorial documentary that brings together historical research, contemporary cinematic language, and innovative creative technologies.

As a producer, my primary goal was not only to oversee the production process, but to create the conditions in which the film's artistic vision could be realized without compromise.

The project was conceived as an integrated creative system, where historical research, artistic reconstruction, visual storytelling, sound dramaturgy, and contemporary AI technologies work together to bring the past closer to present-day audiences.

A fundamental principle throughout the production was maintaining a balance between historical authenticity and artistic expression. Artificial intelligence was used exclusively as a creative instrument for reconstructing historical environments, while every conceptual, research, and artistic decision remained entirely author-driven.

The film represents the first completed chapter of my documentary series Appropriated Names, a long-term project dedicated to restoring artists to the Ukrainian cultural context and introducing international audiences to overlooked chapters of European cultural history.

I believe documentary cinema has the power not only to preserve history, but also to create new opportunities for understanding it.

Iryna Bondarchuk

Producer • Screenwriter • Director

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

IRYNA BONDARCHUK

Director • Art Historian • Writer

Iryna Bondarchuk is a Ukrainian screenwriter, director, producer, and art historian. She graduated from the National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture, where her enduring interest in art history and cultural heritage first took shape.

Her work combines documentary filmmaking, art-historical research, and contemporary cinematic language to explore the relationship between historical memory, culture, and artistic identity.

She is the creator of the documentary series *Appropriated Names*, dedicated to artists whose lives and creative legacies reveal new meanings when viewed through the perspective of the Ukrainian cultural context.

Kazimir Malevich. Black Square is the first completed film in the series. She is currently developing the next documentary, *Anna & Amedeo*, exploring the story of Anna Akhmatova and Amedeo Modigliani.

In her films, Bondarchuk combines historical research, artistic reconstruction, and contemporary digital technologies to create emotionally engaging documentary narratives. For Iryna Bondarchuk, documentary cinema is a way of restoring cultural memory to the contemporary international dialogue.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Appropriated Names

Kazimir Malevich. Black Square is part of **Appropriated Names**, an authorial documentary project created by Ukrainian filmmaker, art historian, and writer Iryna Bondarchuk.

The project explores the lives and creative legacies of artists whose biographies have often been presented without the cultural environments that shaped them. Rather than revising history, **Appropriated Names** seeks to enrich it by restoring overlooked cultural contexts and revealing the connections that contribute to a more complete understanding of European artistic heritage.

Each film combines historical research, archival sources, art-historical analysis, and artistic reconstruction to explore the relationship between an artist, their cultural environment, and the ideas that defined their work. The project does not focus on questions of cultural ownership. Instead, it asks a broader and more universal question:

How does cultural environment shape artistic identity?

The first completed films in the series explore two iconic figures of European culture from very different perspectives.

Anna & Amedeo tells the story of the artistic and emotional relationship between Anna Akhmatova and Amedeo Modigliani, revealing the creative dialogue that influenced both artists during their years in Paris.

Kazimir Malevich. Black Square returns to the formative years of one of the pioneers of modern art, exploring the cultural landscape, memories, and artistic influences that preceded the creation of **Black Square**.

Future films in the series will continue to examine artists whose lives and works reveal the richness of Europe's interconnected cultural history through the perspective of Ukrainian cultural context.

A distinctive feature of **Appropriated Names** is its combination of traditional documentary filmmaking with contemporary digital technologies.

Artificial intelligence is used as a creative instrument to reconstruct historical spaces, atmosphere, and visual environments that no longer exist, while every historical interpretation, narrative structure, and artistic decision remains entirely author-driven.

The project is built upon one fundamental belief:

Understanding an artist begins with understanding the world that shaped them.

Through documentary cinema, **Appropriated Names** invites international audiences to rediscover cultural memory, explore forgotten connections, and experience European art history through a broader and more inclusive perspective.

Project Mission

Returning artists to the Ukrainian cultural context.

Author

Iryna Bondarchuk

Documentary filmmaker • Art historian • Writer

Creator of the documentary project Appropriated Names

Core Principles of the Project

Research before interpretation.

Context before conclusion.

Dialogue before judgment.

Art before ideology.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of art has always been more complex than political borders.

Many artists were born, educated, and created within cultural landscapes whose political boundaries and historical interpretations changed repeatedly throughout the twentieth century.

Kazimir Malevich is one of those artists.

His name has become synonymous with modernism, while *Black Square* remains one of the most influential and recognizable works of twentieth-century art.

Yet the story of his life extends far beyond a single artistic movement or a single national narrative.

Born in Kyiv and raised within the cultural landscape of Ukraine, Malevich spent his formative years surrounded by rural life, folk traditions, and visual experiences that would later resonate throughout his artistic practice.

These are not peripheral details of his biography.

They are essential elements in understanding the environment in which his artistic vision was formed.

For many decades, however, international representations of Malevich have focused primarily on his role within the history of the Russian avant-garde.

In recent years, art-historical scholarship has increasingly encouraged a broader perspective, examining the multiple cultural environments that contributed to the development of his artistic language and intellectual worldview.

This broader perspective became the starting point for *Kazimir Malevich. Black Square*.

The film does not seek to provide definitive answers to complex historical questions.

Instead, it invites audiences to consider that art cannot be fully understood without the cultural environment in which an artist's identity was formed.

The history of art is constantly evolving.

New archival discoveries, scholarly research, and interdisciplinary approaches continue to reveal previously overlooked dimensions of artists whose work has shaped world culture.

As a result, museums, universities, and cultural institutions are increasingly re-examining how artists are presented—not only through their most celebrated works, but also through the cultural environments that shaped their creative identities.

Kazimir Malevich. Black Square is part of this ongoing professional and cultural dialogue.

Rather than rewriting the history of art, the film seeks to enrich it by restoring the cultural connections, historical memory, and artistic environments that allow us to better understand one of the most influential figures of the European avant-garde.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2026 — Anna & Amedeo (Narrative Short Film)



2026 — Kazimir Malevich. Black Square (Documentary Short)

2026 — Jazz Band "Salt & Sax". Jazz Music Concert (Music Film)



2026 — The Crown of Gdańsk (Documentary Short)



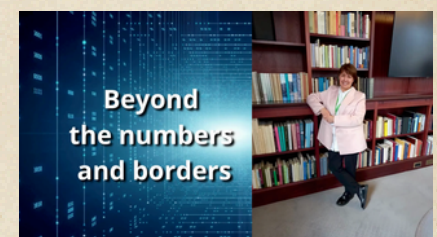
2025 — I Reach for You with All My Heart... (Poetic Short Film)

2025 — Suite for Violin (Music Short Film)



2025 — Histoire d'amour à Paris (Narrative AnimaFilm)

2025 — Beyond the Numbers and Borders (Documentary film about the history of the development of cybernetics in Ukraine)



2024 — Lullaby for the Ocean (Social Short Film)



FILM STILLS



AI TRANSPARENCY

Kazimir Malevich. Black Square is an original authorial documentary film conceived, researched, written, directed, and edited by **Iryna Bondarchuk**.

Artificial intelligence was used as a creative and technical tool to visualize historical environments that no longer exist and to support the film's artistic language.

AI did not generate the film's concept, historical interpretation, screenplay, dramaturgy, directing, or editorial decisions. All essential creative decisions remained entirely author-driven.

Research

The film is based on historical documents, archival sources, art-historical research, and verified biographical materials. AI was not used as a source of historical evidence. Historical interpretation was developed exclusively through the author's research and critical analysis.

Visual Reconstruction

AI-assisted image generation and animation were used to reconstruct:

- historical interiors and urban landscapes;
- rural environments and lighting conditions;
- visual atmosphere and artistic reconstructions inspired by documented historical sources.

All reconstructed imagery was developed under the author's creative direction and refined to achieve historical and artistic consistency.

Creative Process

AI functioned as an extension of the creative process rather than its replacement.

The screenplay, narrative structure, editing rhythm, visual style, and emotional dramaturgy were created and executed by the filmmaker. AI was used alongside historical research, archival materials, digital editing, sound design, and other cinematic tools.

Voice & Sound

AI-assisted technologies were used at selected stages of voice production and audio post-production.

The overall sound dramaturgy—including music, ambient sound, silence, and emotional rhythm—was designed by the filmmaker.

The Ukrainian song "Hude Viter Velmy v Poli..." serves as an emotional leitmotif symbolizing Malevich's childhood memories and his connection to the cultural environment that shaped his artistic identity.

Ethical Principles

The production follows four principles:

- Historical accuracy before visual effect
- Human authorship before automation
- Artistic integrity before technological novelty
- Transparency before ambiguity

AI was never presented as the author of the work. It functioned exclusively as a contemporary artistic instrument supporting the filmmaker's creative vision.

Production Tools

The production incorporated:

ChatGPT · NanoBanana Pro · Canva · ElevenLabs · Suno · Higgsfield · Kling · HeyGen · CapCut

Each tool was used for specific production stages under the filmmaker's continuous creative and editorial control.

Author's Note

I believe AI should not replace artistic authorship. Its value lies in expanding the expressive possibilities of documentary cinema while preserving the filmmaker's responsibility for every creative decision.

AI is not the creator of the story.

It is another language through which the story can be told.

PRODUCTION NOTES

The production of **Kazimir Malevich. Black Square** began with years of research into Kazimir Malevich's artistic legacy and his place in the history of European art.

The development process included extensive study of art-historical scholarship, archival documents, biographical sources, personal correspondence, memoirs, and historical records covering different periods of the artist's life. Particular attention was devoted to his childhood, formative years, and his work in Kyiv—stages that played a significant role in shaping his artistic vision.

The central creative challenge was not simply to reconstruct historical events, but to create a convincing cinematic world that would allow contemporary audiences to experience emotionally the period in which Malevich lived and worked.

Because many of the historical locations, interiors, and material environments no longer exist, the production combined traditional documentary filmmaking with contemporary digital technologies for artistic reconstruction.

Every reconstructed environment was developed on the basis of historical sources, art-historical research, and visual documentation. Each artistic decision was carefully reviewed to ensure both historical authenticity and visual coherence.

The visual concept became one of the defining elements of the film.

Lighting, colour palette, composition, and editing rhythm were developed as a unified artistic system designed to reflect the evolution of Malevich's inner world—from the warm memories of his Ukrainian childhood to the emergence of the new visual language of the avant-garde. Sound dramaturgy became an equally essential component of the film's artistic structure.

Its emotional leitmotif is the Ukrainian song "**Hude Viter Velmy v Poli...**" ("**The Wind Roars Across the Open Fields...**"), which, according to family memories and contemporary accounts, accompanied Kazimir Malevich from childhood. Within the film, it symbolizes his nostalgia for his Ukrainian childhood, youth, and the cultural environment that shaped his artistic identity.

To realize the creative vision of the film, contemporary digital technologies—including artificial intelligence—were incorporated into the production process.

AI was used exclusively for artistic reconstruction, the creation of selected visual environments, and certain stages of post-production. All research, writing, directing, artistic, and editorial decisions remained entirely author-driven.

The film was produced as an independent authorial project in which one filmmaker assumed the roles of researcher, screenwriter, director, producer, and editor. This creative model ensured the consistency of the artistic vision and preserved a unified cinematic language throughout every stage of production.

Kazimir Malevich. Black Square forms part of the authorial documentary project *Appropriated Names*, dedicated to artists whose lives and creative legacies reveal new meanings when viewed through the perspective of the Ukrainian cultural context.

PRODUCTION PHILOSOPHY

Throughout the production of the film, we were guided by one fundamental principle: **Every historical fact must be carefully researched, and every artistic decision must be meaningfully justified.**

For us, documentary cinema is more than a medium for recording history. It is an opportunity to make history emotionally accessible to contemporary audiences.

For this reason, historical research, artistic reconstruction, cinematic language, and contemporary digital technologies were brought together into a single creative methodology, where every element serves one common purpose—to help audiences not only see the past, but also experience it.

The guiding principle of the production was to maintain a careful balance between historical authenticity and artistic expression.

We believe that this balance enables documentary cinema to engage with history honestly, responsibly, and with genuine emotional resonance.



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