

Graphic novel

«War diary. Marisel and Panna Kota saving cultural heritage»



dedicated to museum workers of Ukraine

Marisel and Panna Kota are ordinary cats which lived a carefree and peaceful life in the unusual Odesa Museum, better known in Ukraine as the Bleshchunov House.

24/02/2022 is the day that forever changed the lives of both people and animals in Ukraine.

The Museum Cats decided to tell a story about the cultural heritage of Ukraine, which is in danger, about real people and real animals.

It is no coincidence that the comic book writers chose two Museum Cats as the main characters. First, these animals actually exist, and the museum staff have cared for them for many years. Secondly, Odesa is known as a city where cats enjoy truly royal treatment and where they are loved and cared for.

With the optimism inherent in Odesans, the comic book tells the story of the rescue of the museum collection and its partially restored activities in the context of a full-scale war, and also the life of Odesans in the extraordinarily trying times. Another important character in the story is the cityscape of Odesa, which has changed beyond recognition.

Today, Marisel and Panna Kota lead a more active social life than in pre-war times and selflessly work as "cat therapists" for visitors to the exhibition and communication space of Flat № 6".



Marisel - museum cat from 2014

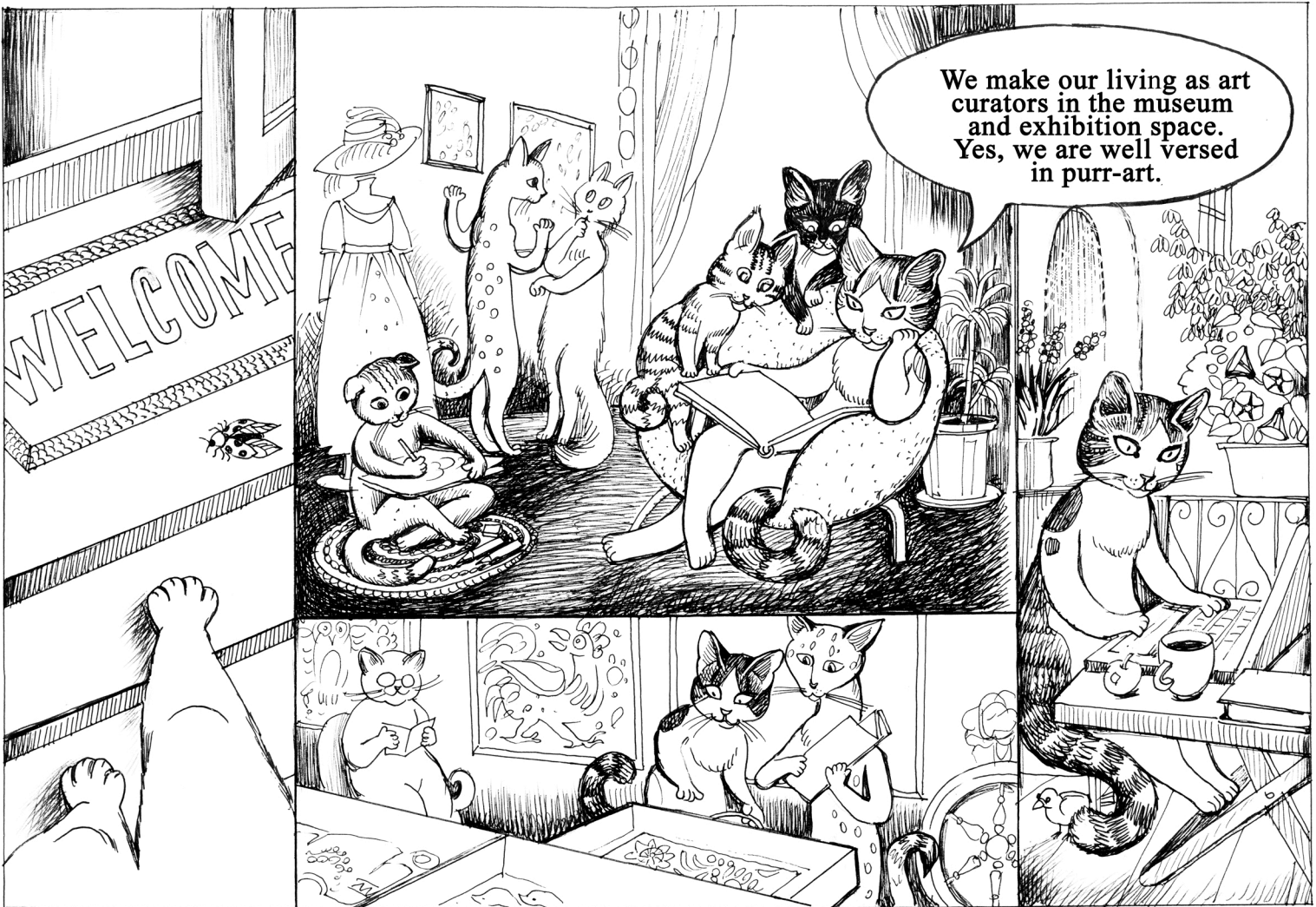


Panna Kota - cat therapist from 2021

Those who helped the Museum Cats tell about the events that happened to the museum and Odesans:

Olena Iliasova - author of the idea

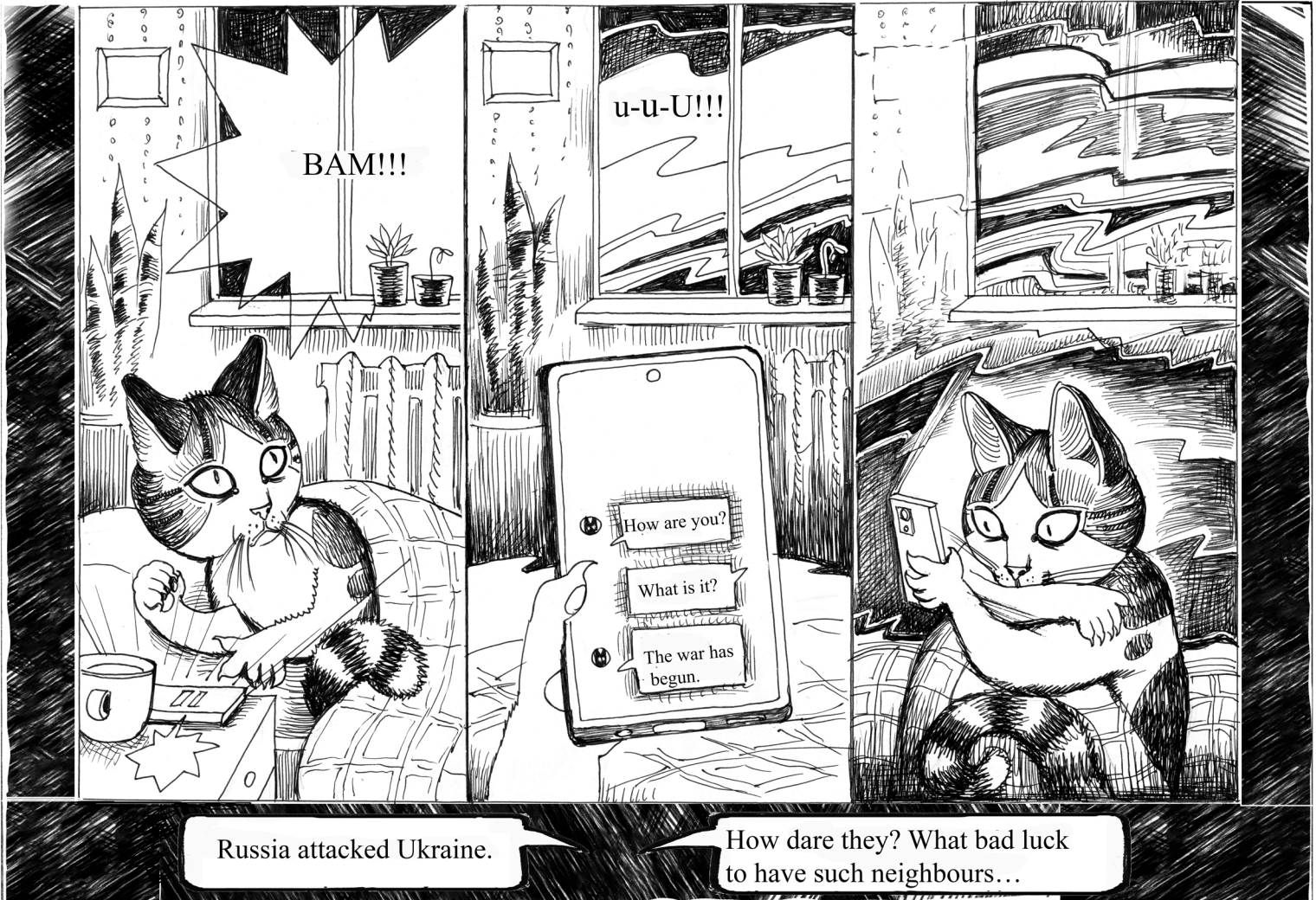
Maria Apriatova - illustrator



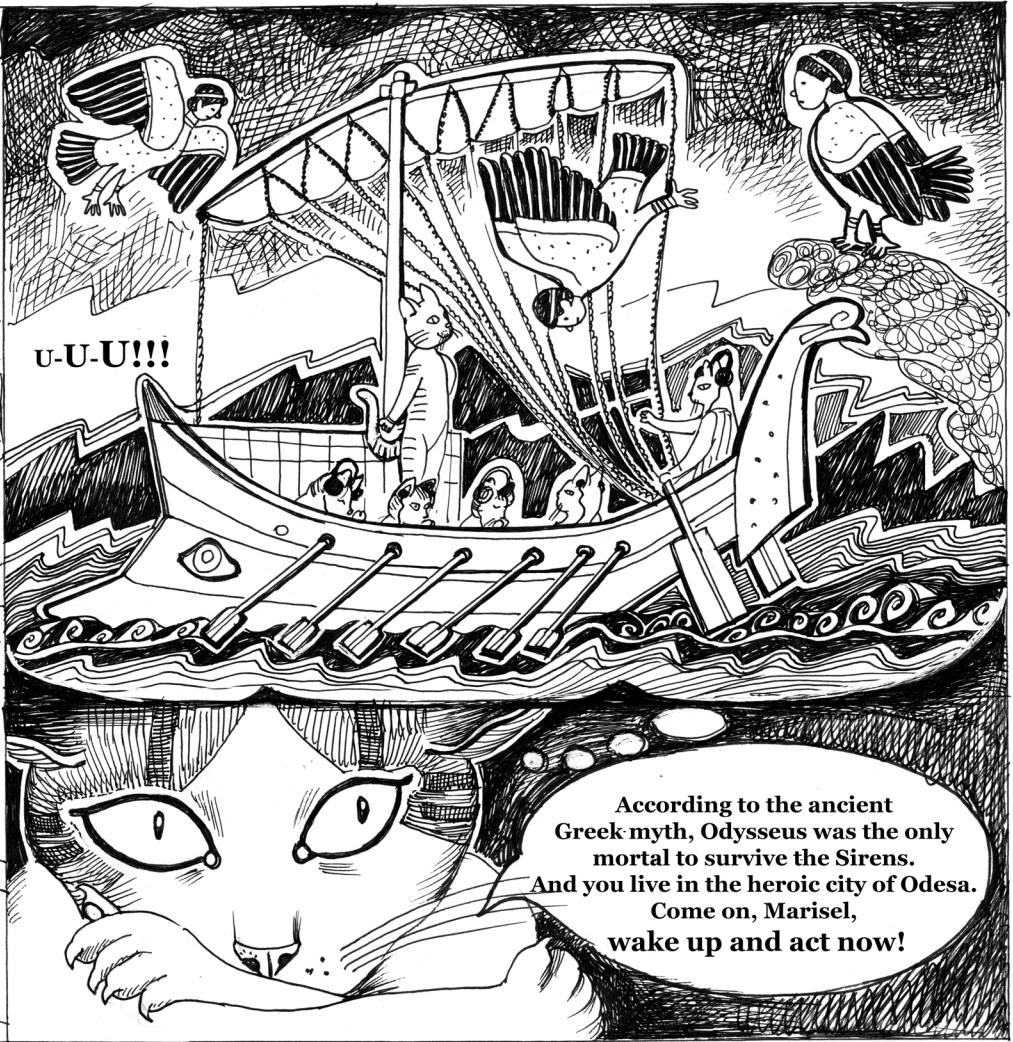
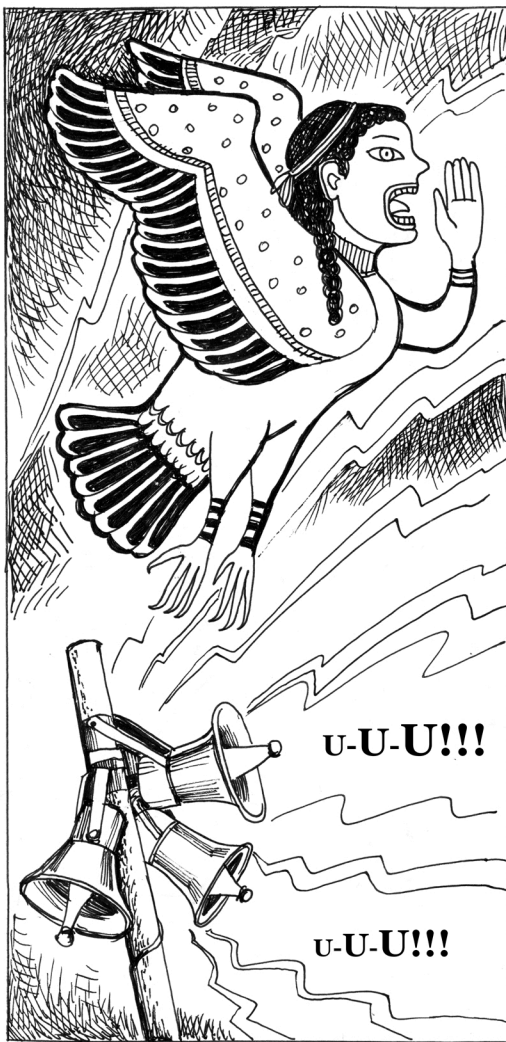
24 FEB 2022



3



4



u-U-U!!!

u-U-U!!!

u-U-U!!!

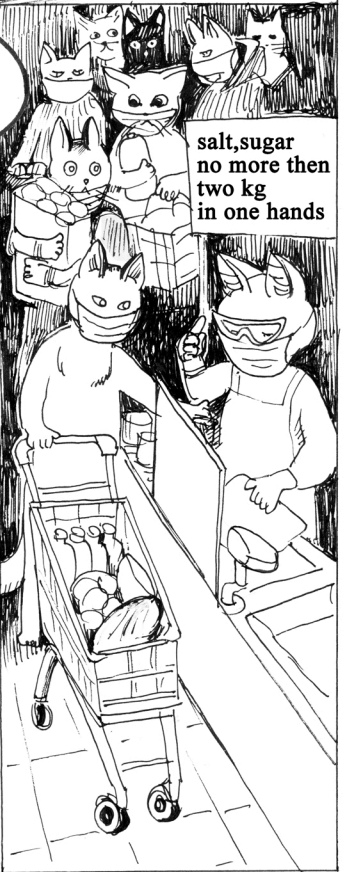
According to the ancient Greek myth, Odysseus was the only mortal to survive the Sirens. And you live in the heroic city of Odesa. Come on, Marisel, wake up and act now!



-I'll get some medicine and water.



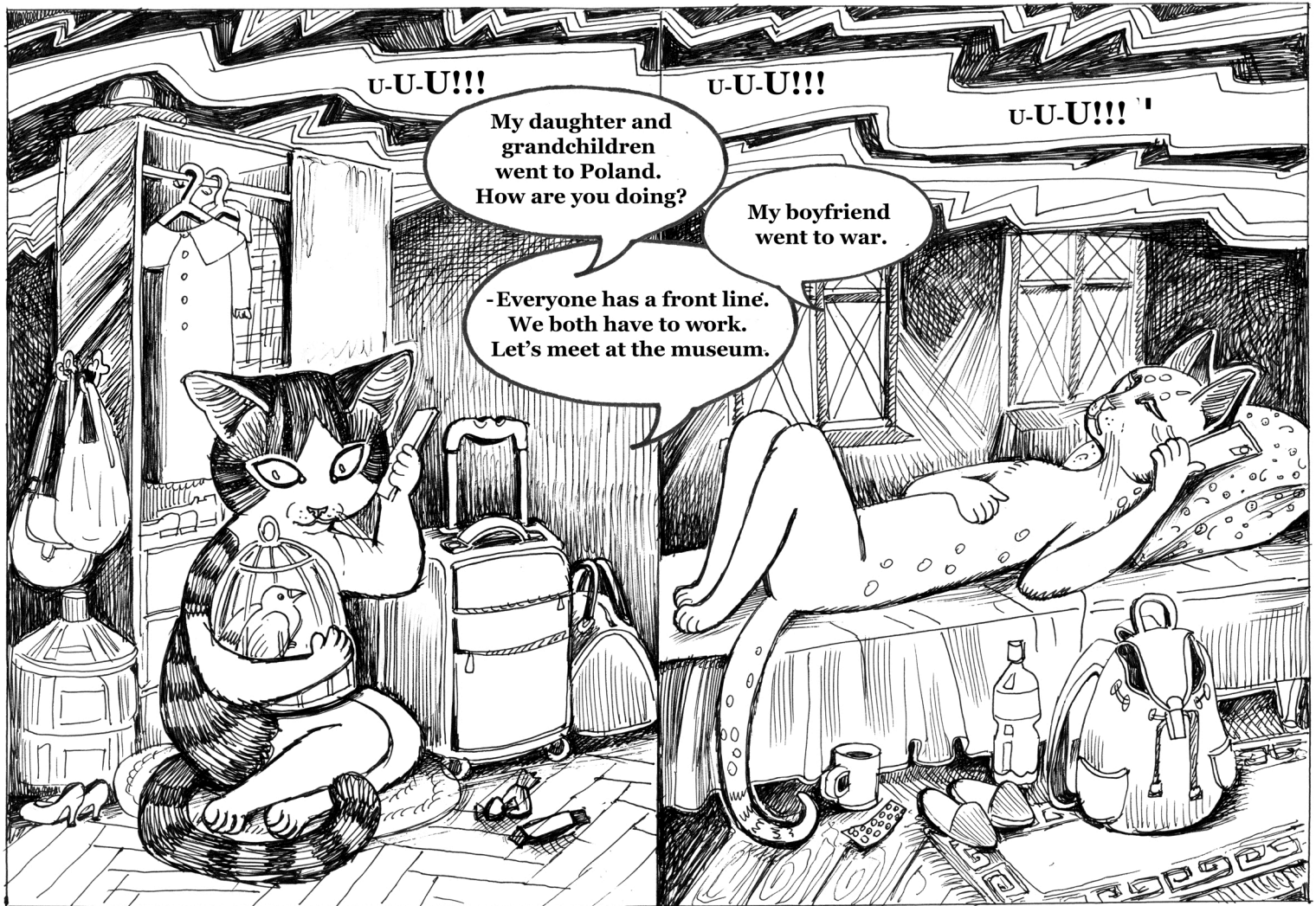
-I'll get some groceries. I won't spend a lot for we need to save money.



water

salt, sugar no more then two kg in one hands





u-U-U!!!

u-U-U!!!

u-U-U!!!

My daughter and grandchildren went to Poland. How are you doing?

My boyfriend went to war.

- Everyone has a front line. We both have to work. Let's meet at the museum.



I'm like a horsman of Ancient Rus.

I'm like a Zaporizhian Cossack, only on foot.

We must save the museum and prepare the collection for evacuation.

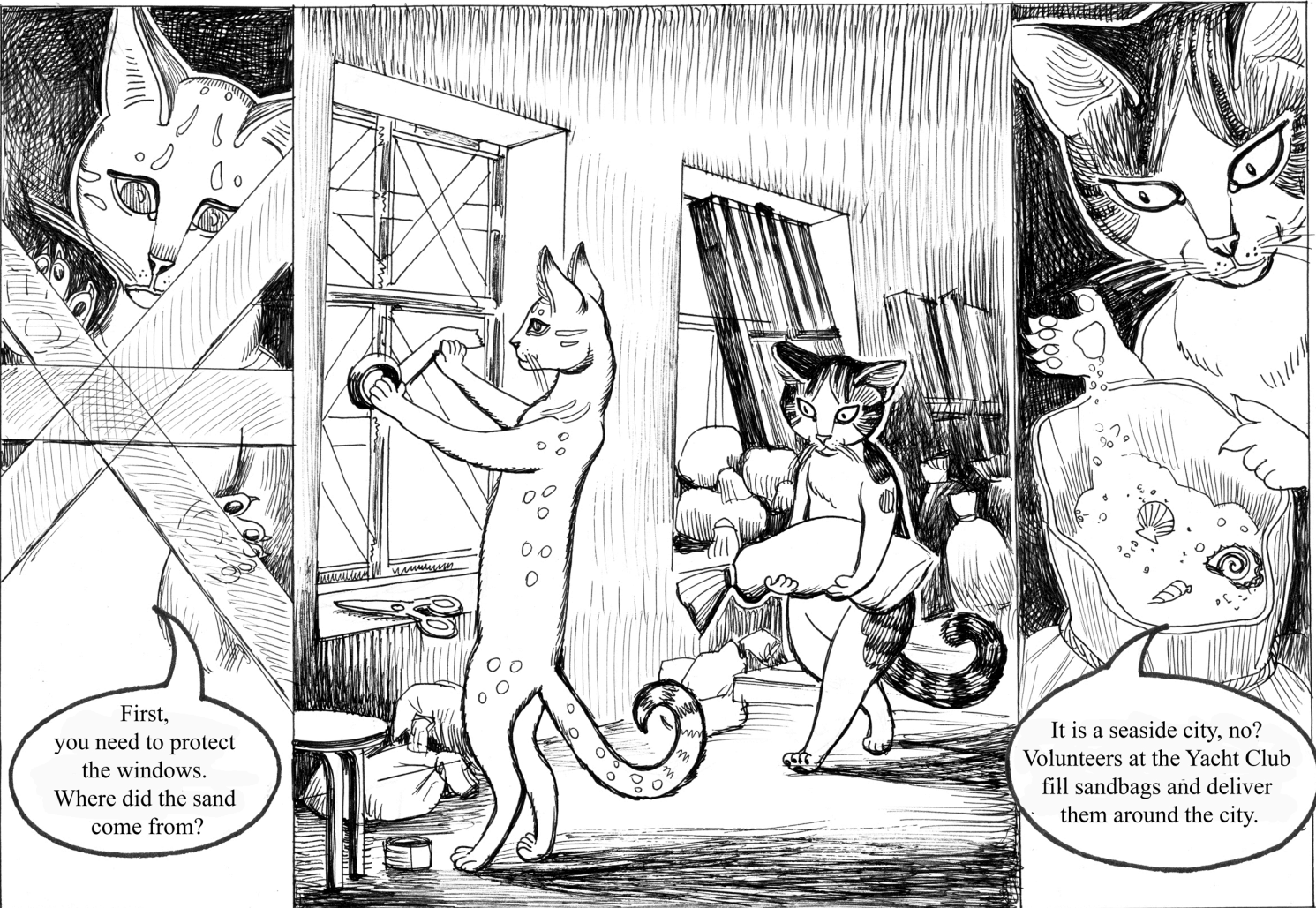


click!



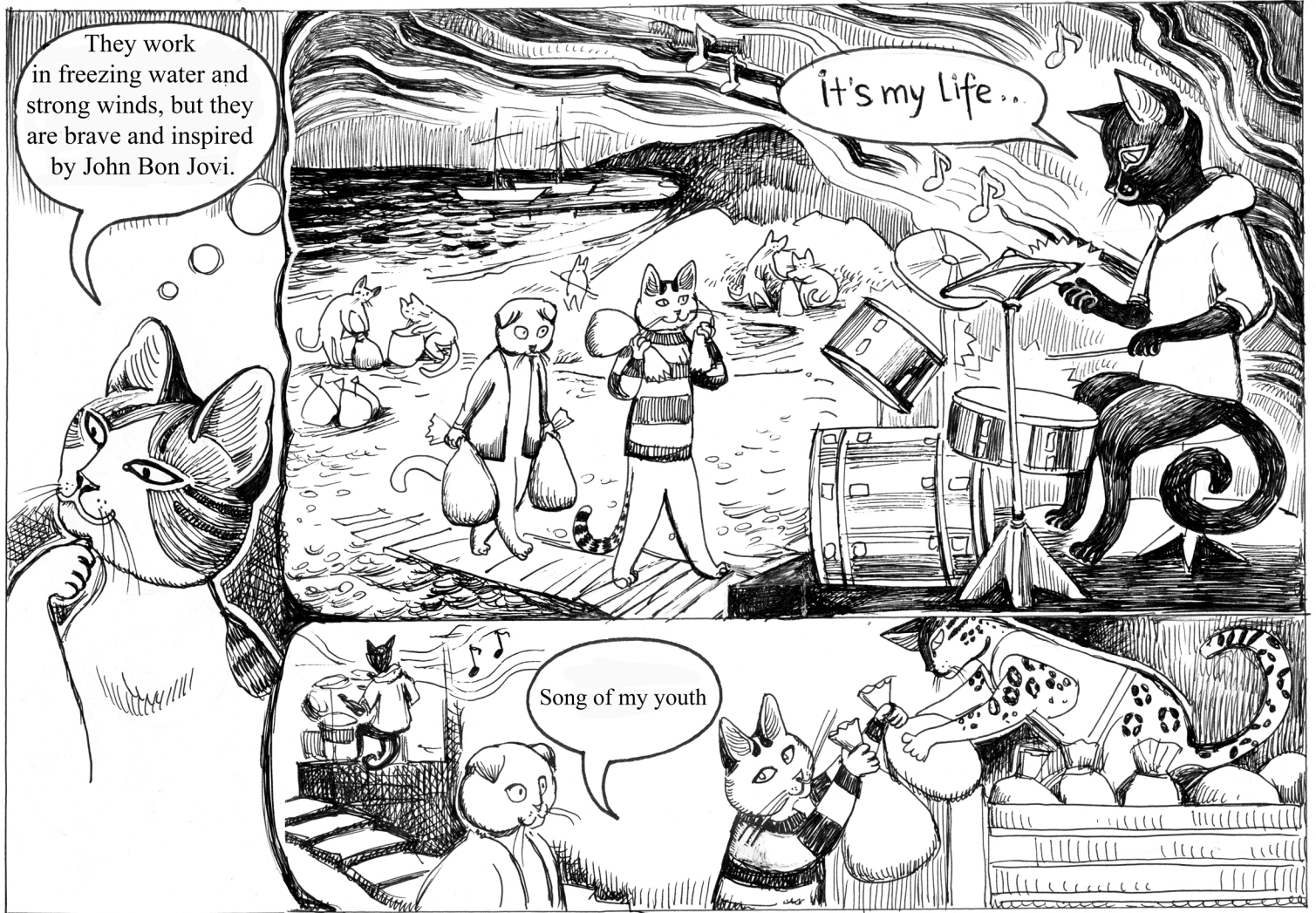
I've never heard you sing before.

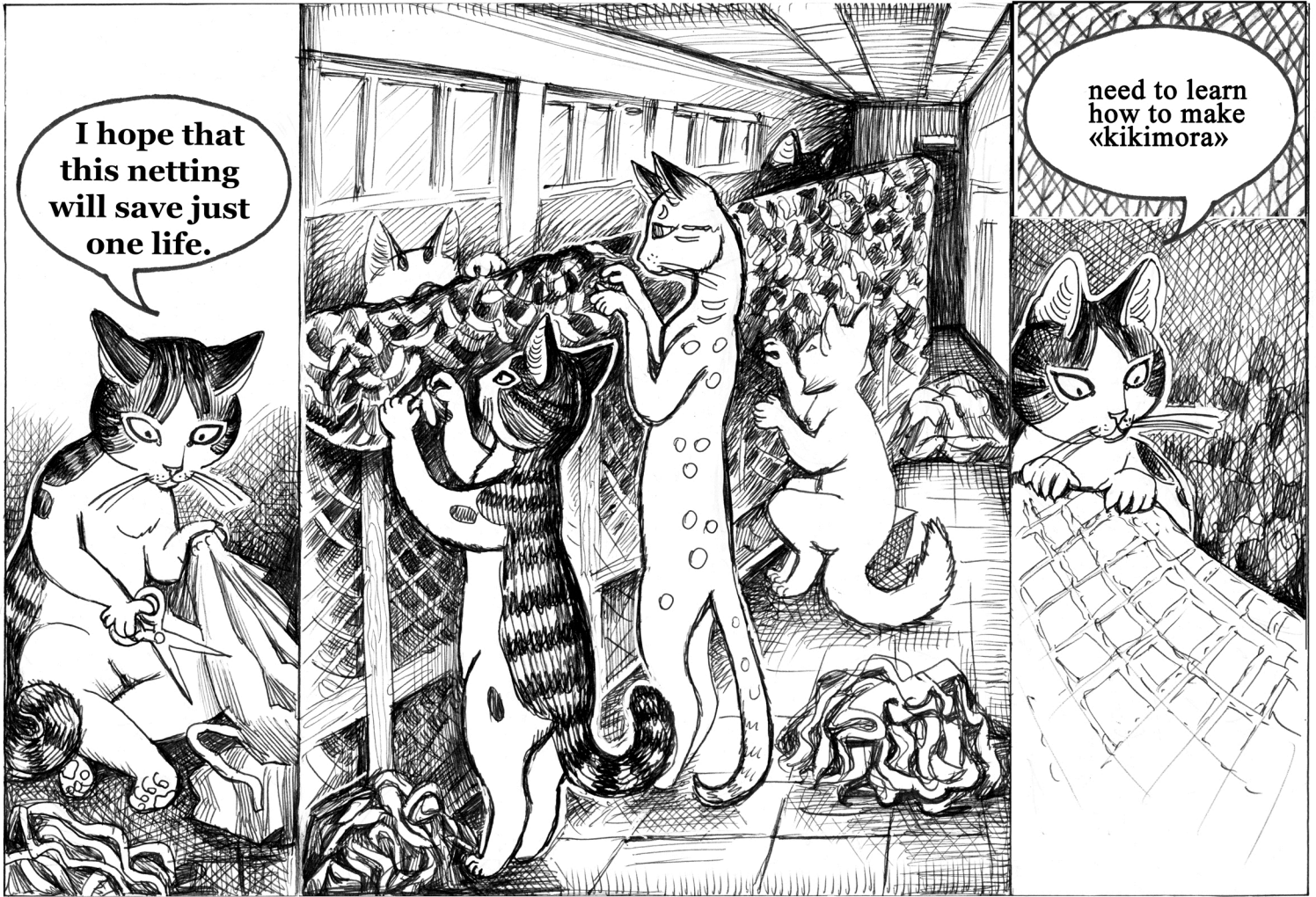
Sings "Oh u luzi chervona kalyna" (Chervona Kalyna)



First, you need to protect the windows. Where did the sand come from?

It is a seaside city, no? Volunteers at the Yacht Club fill sandbags and deliver them around the city.







Mom, I'm study Polish.
My older child is already
in kindergarten.

I think about you
all the time! I'm worry!

We are fine.
I look at your
childhood photos.

Don't be afraid, kitty!
I already know how to
shoot a grenade
launcher, live near
a fire, climb
a mountain to receive
your message,
warm myself
with a friend's back,
and most importantly,
drink instant coffee :)



Today
is 48 February,
the endless
Groundhog Day.

I don't want to,
but I have
to eat.

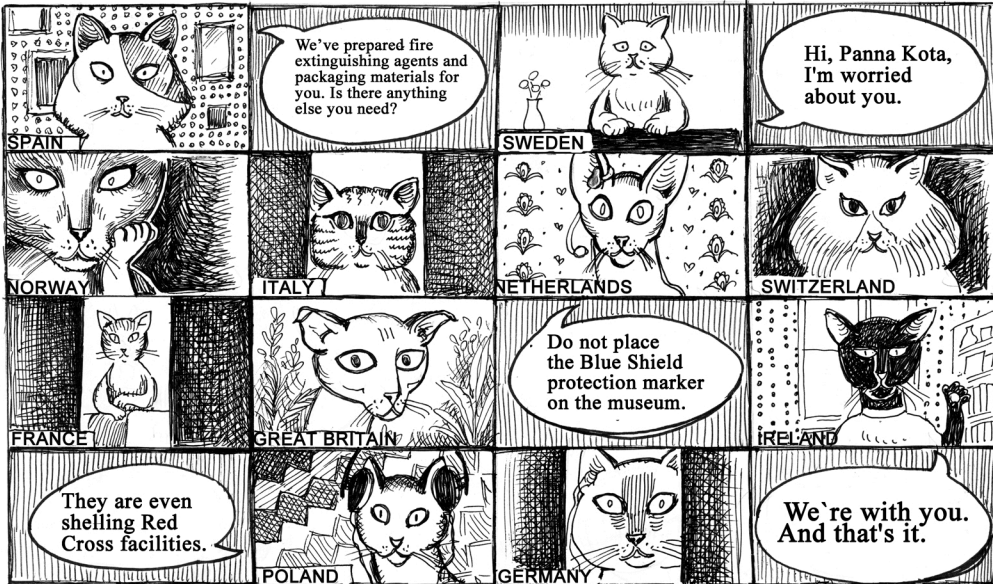
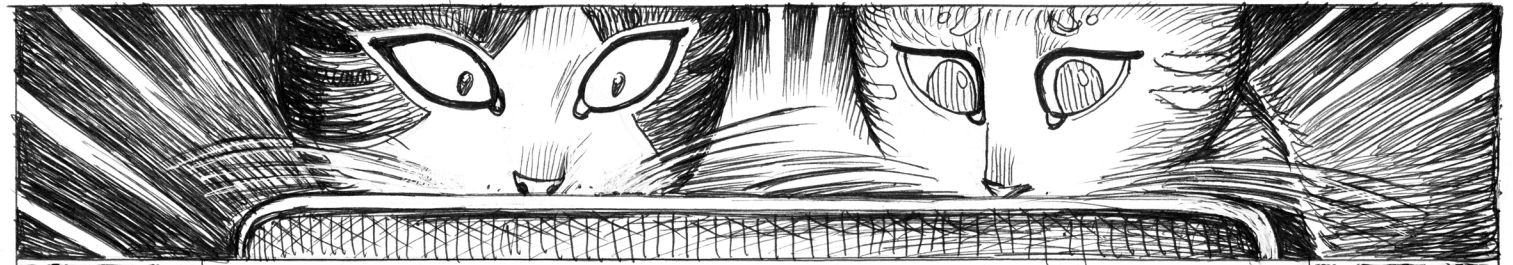
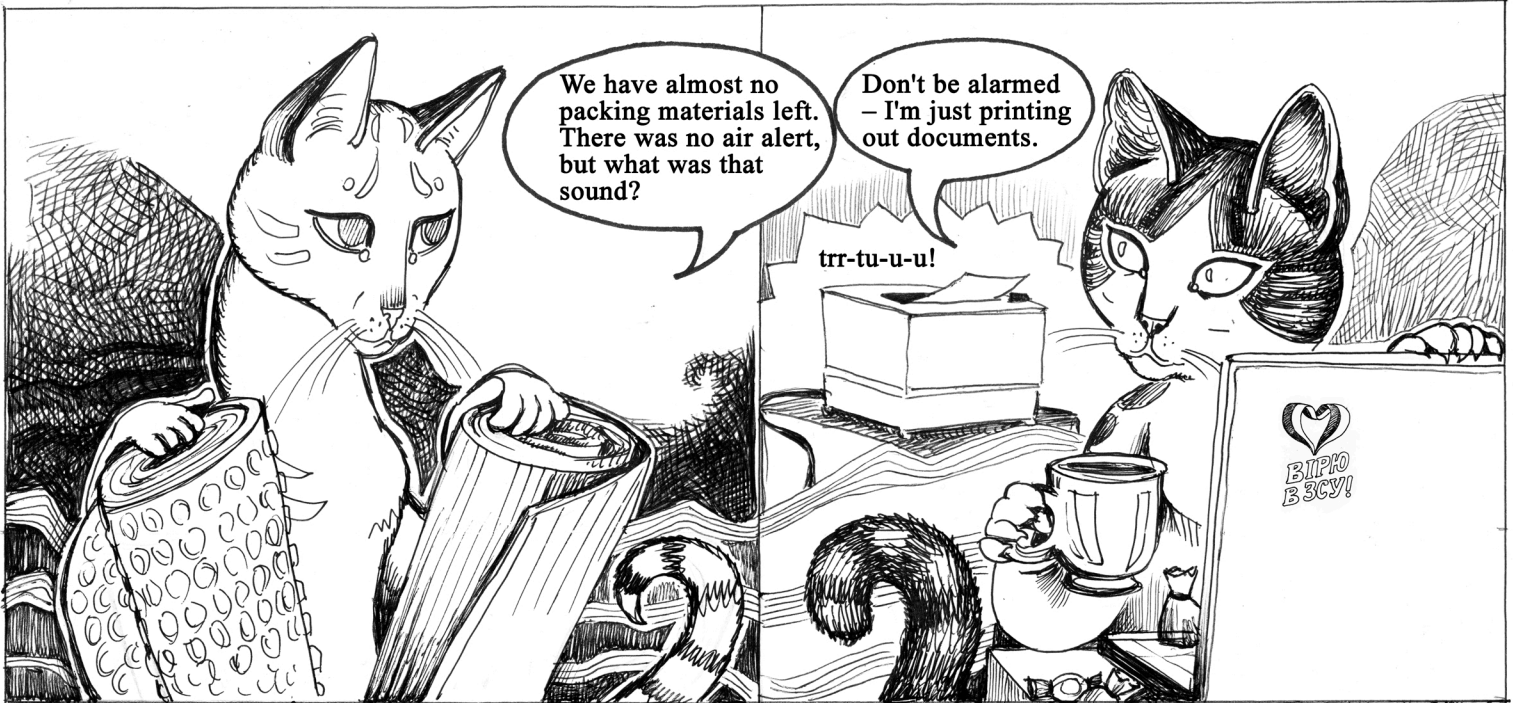
The DSNS UKR
(State Emergency Service of Ukraine)
reminds:

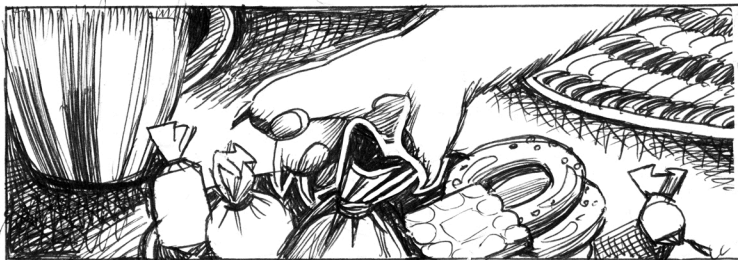
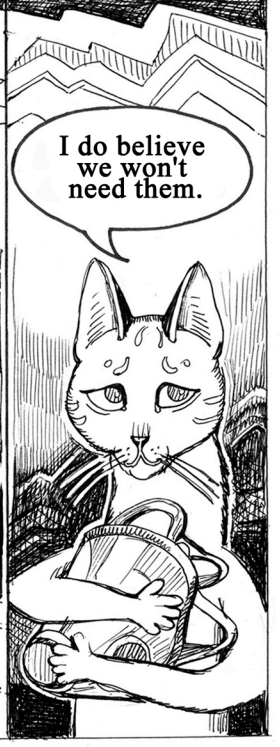
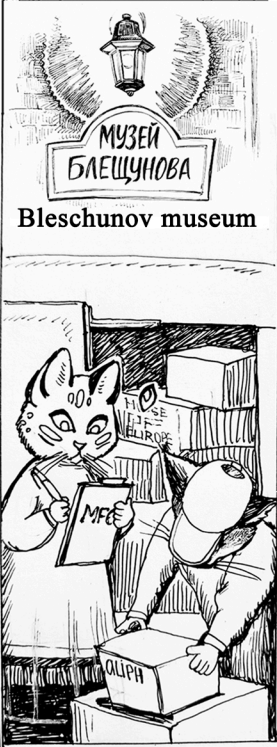
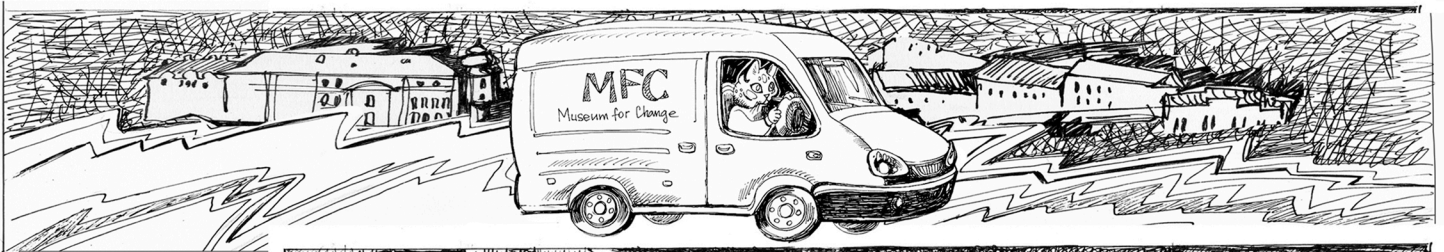
During martial law,
you must always have
an identity document.

In the event of an air alert,
immediately go to the
nearest bomb shelter.

It is forbidden
to be in public places
during the curfew.

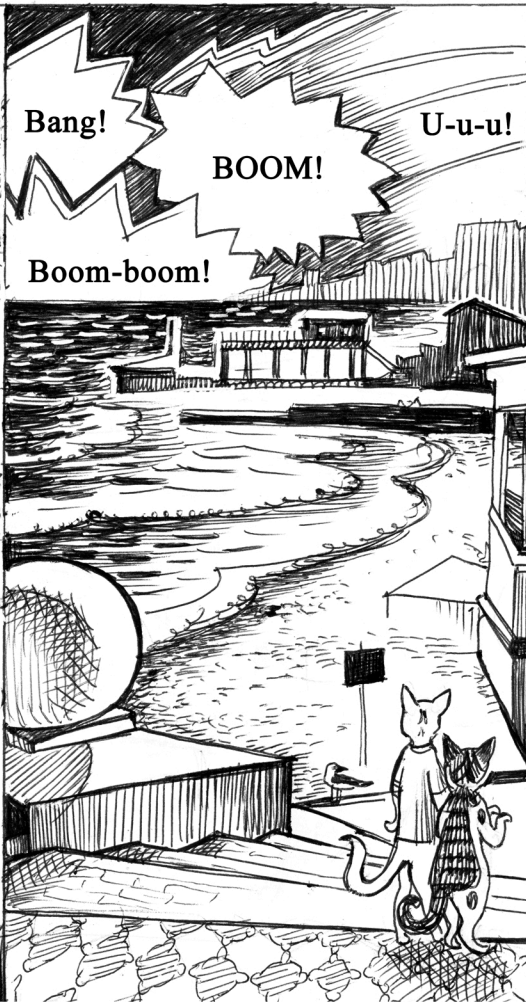








Let's go breathe in the sea air.

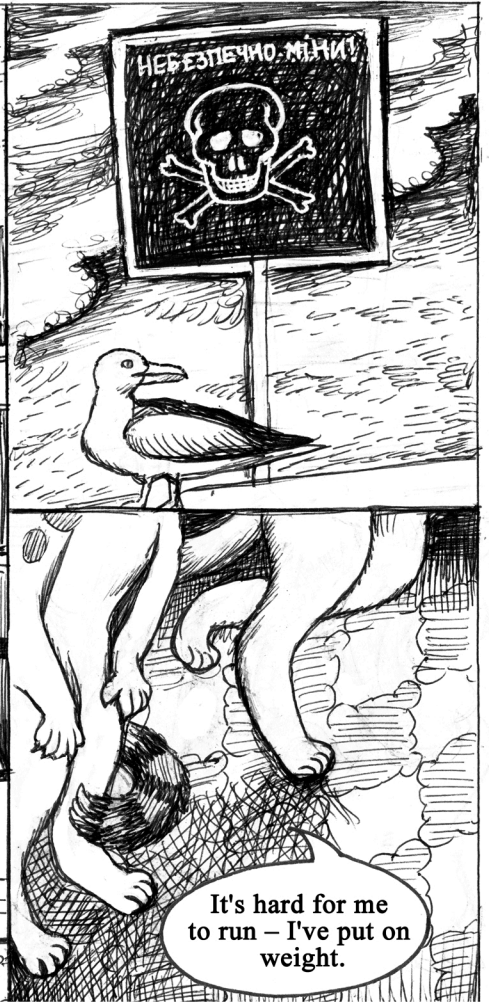


Bang!

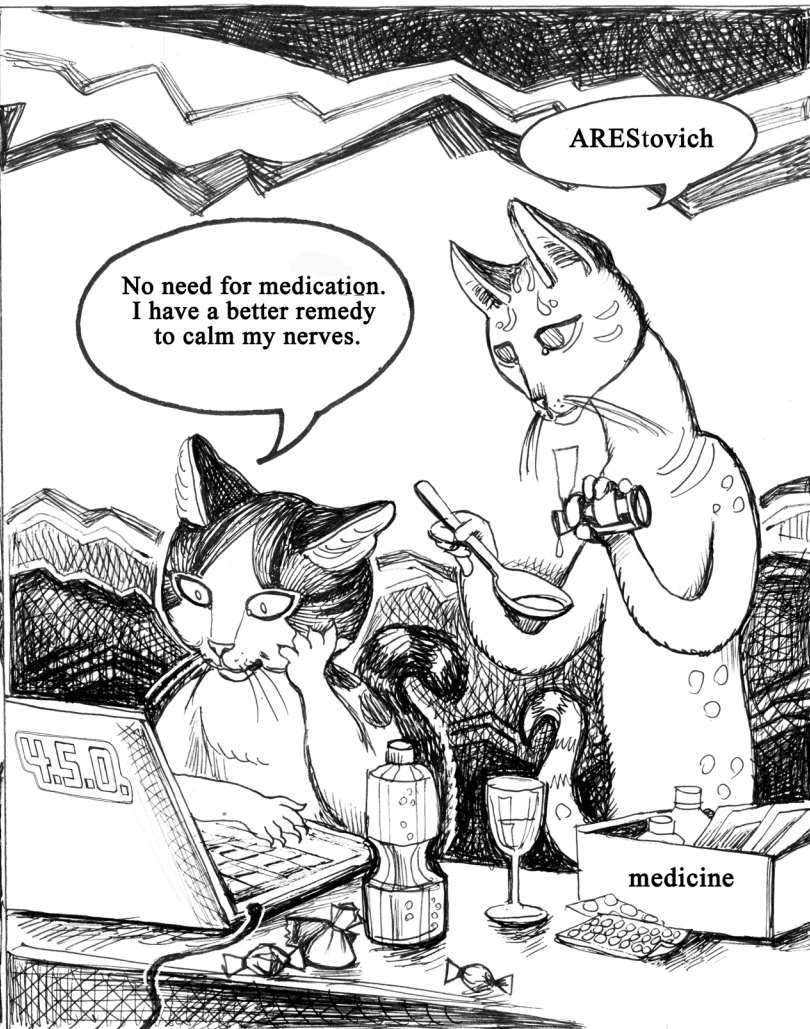
BOOM!

U-u-u!

Boom-boom!



It's hard for me to run - I've put on weight.

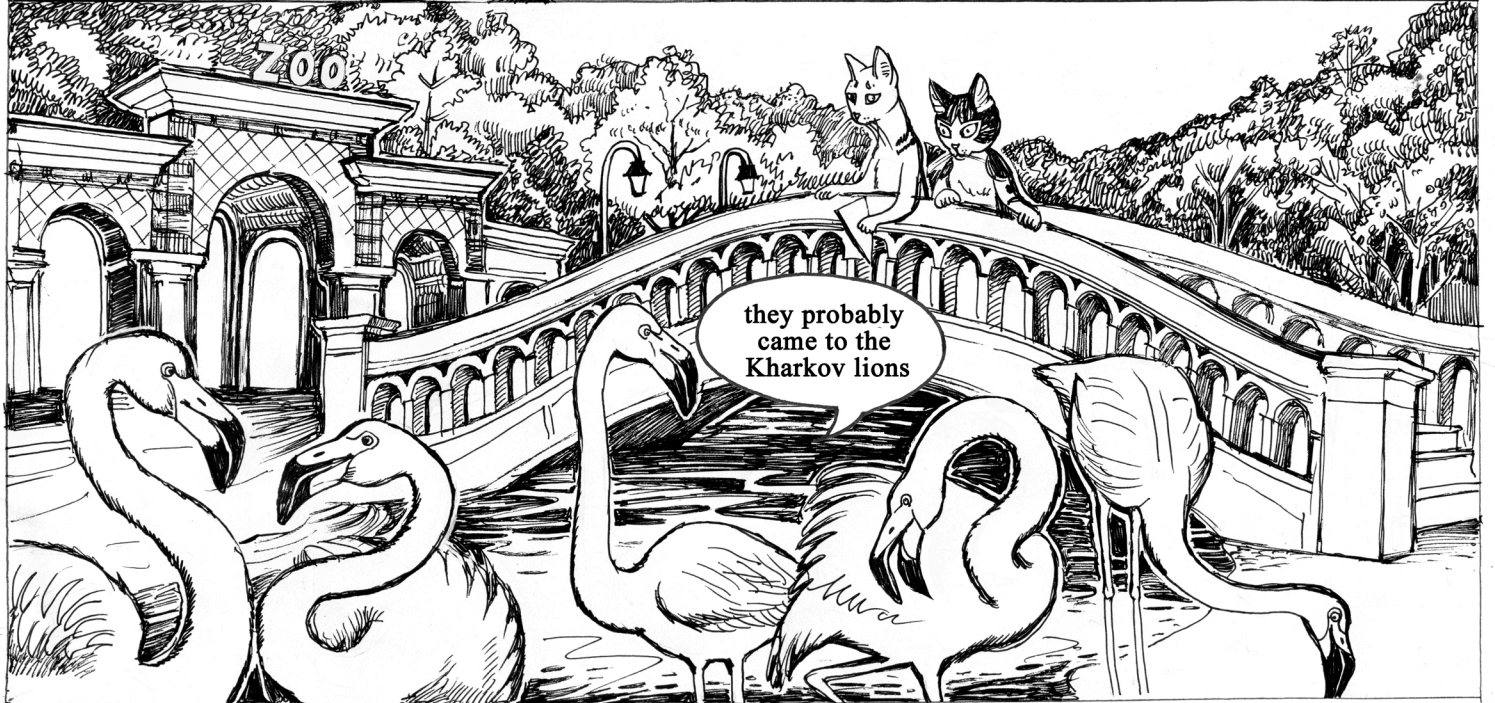
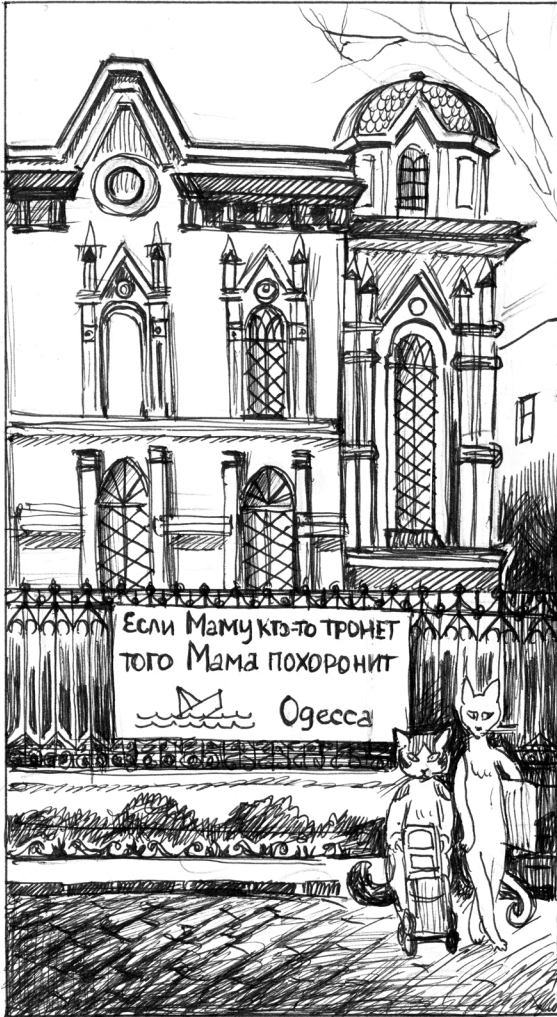


No need for medication. I have a better remedy to calm my nerves.

AREStovich

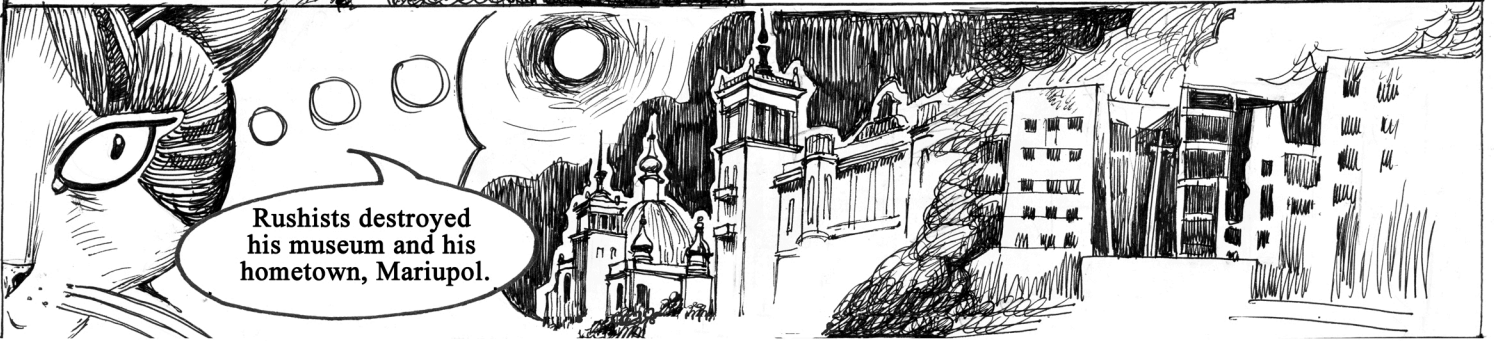
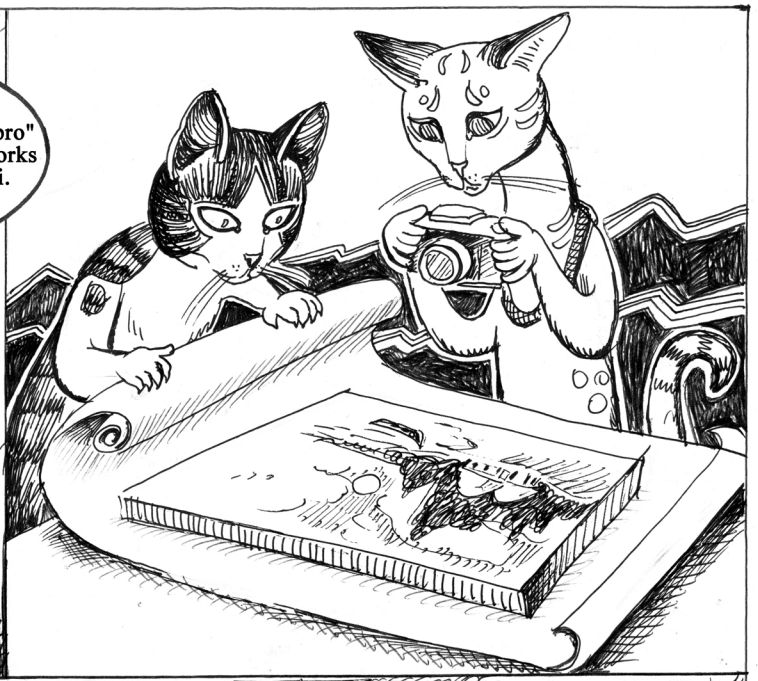


She's probably thinking, that he is a descendant of the ancient Greek god of war, Ares.

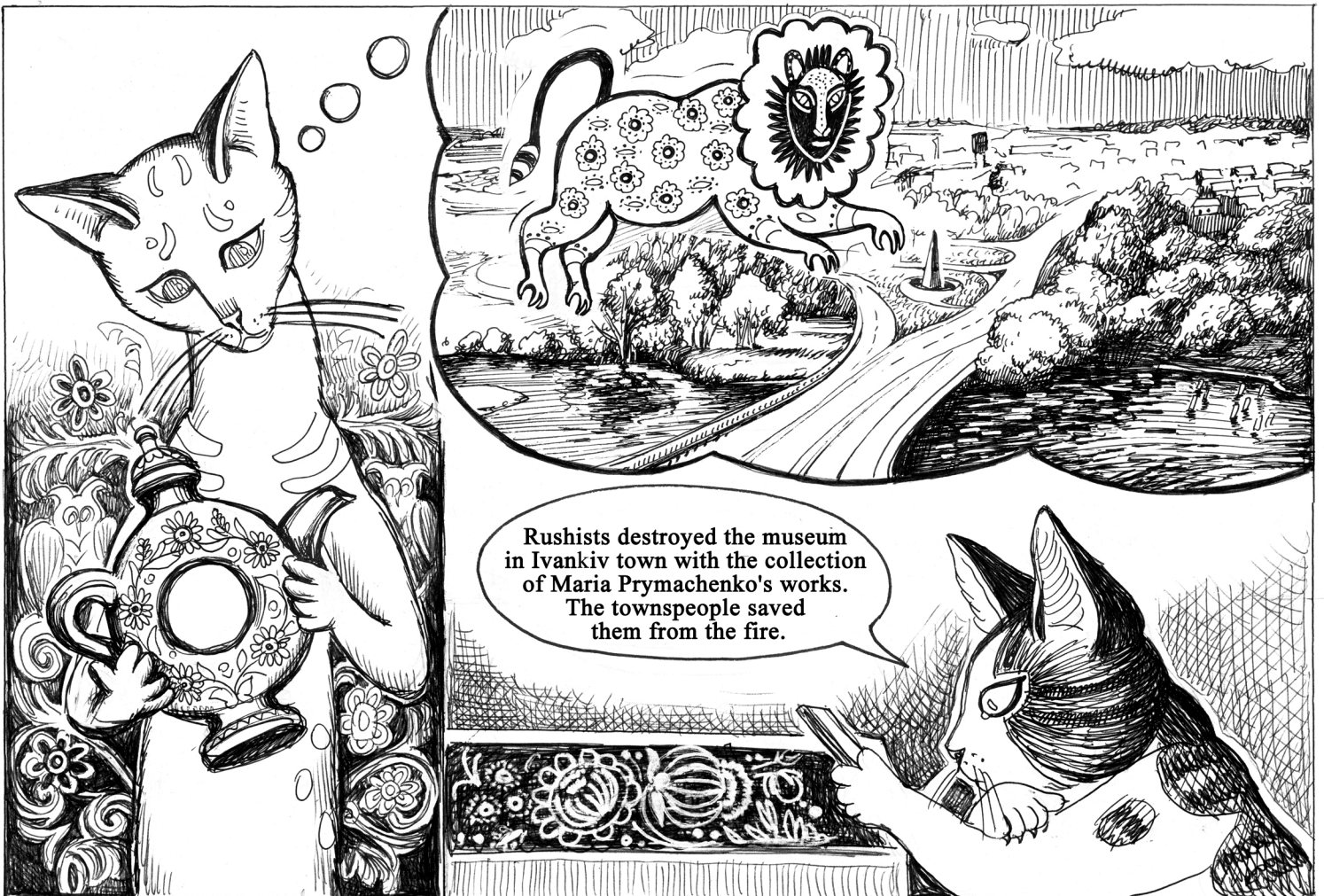




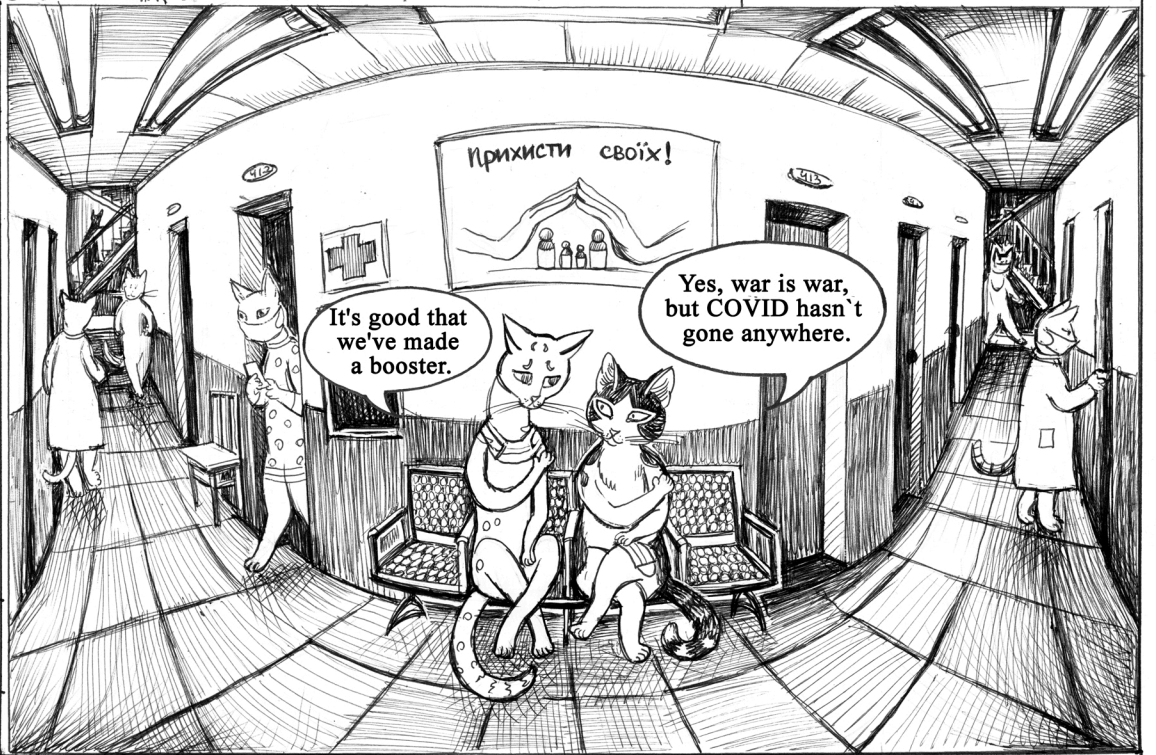
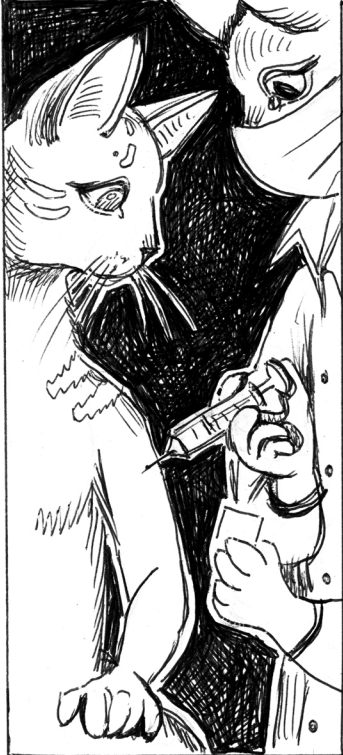
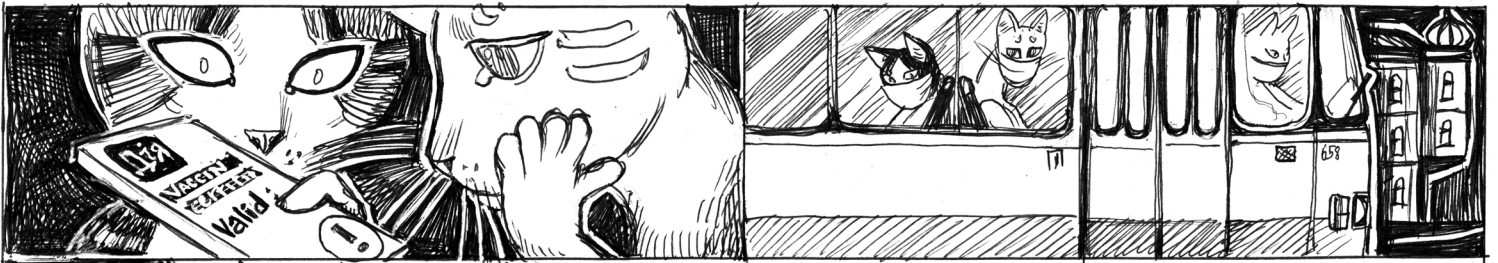
Our
"The Night on the Dnipro"
is reminiscent of the works
by Arkhyps Kuindzhi.



Rushists destroyed his
museum and his
hometown, Mariupol.

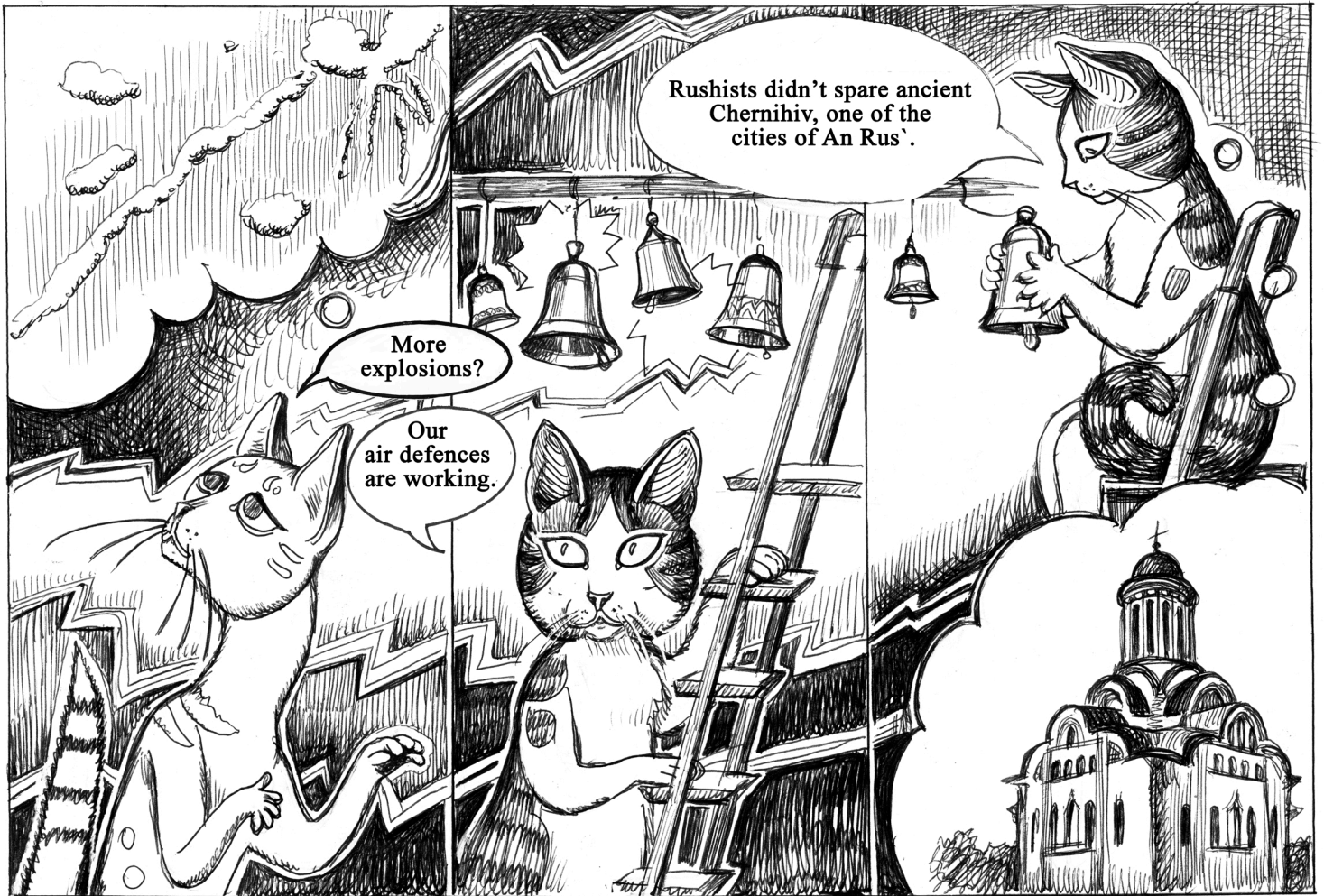


Rushists destroyed the museum
in Ivankiv town with the collection
of Maria Prymachenko's works.
The townspeople saved
them from the fire.



They are shelling Lviv. I hope that the Rynok Square won't be damaged.







The collection is packed, so we need to fill the boxes. Oh, your paws are all scratched.



Yes, it's hard work, but the men at war, so we do it ourselves.

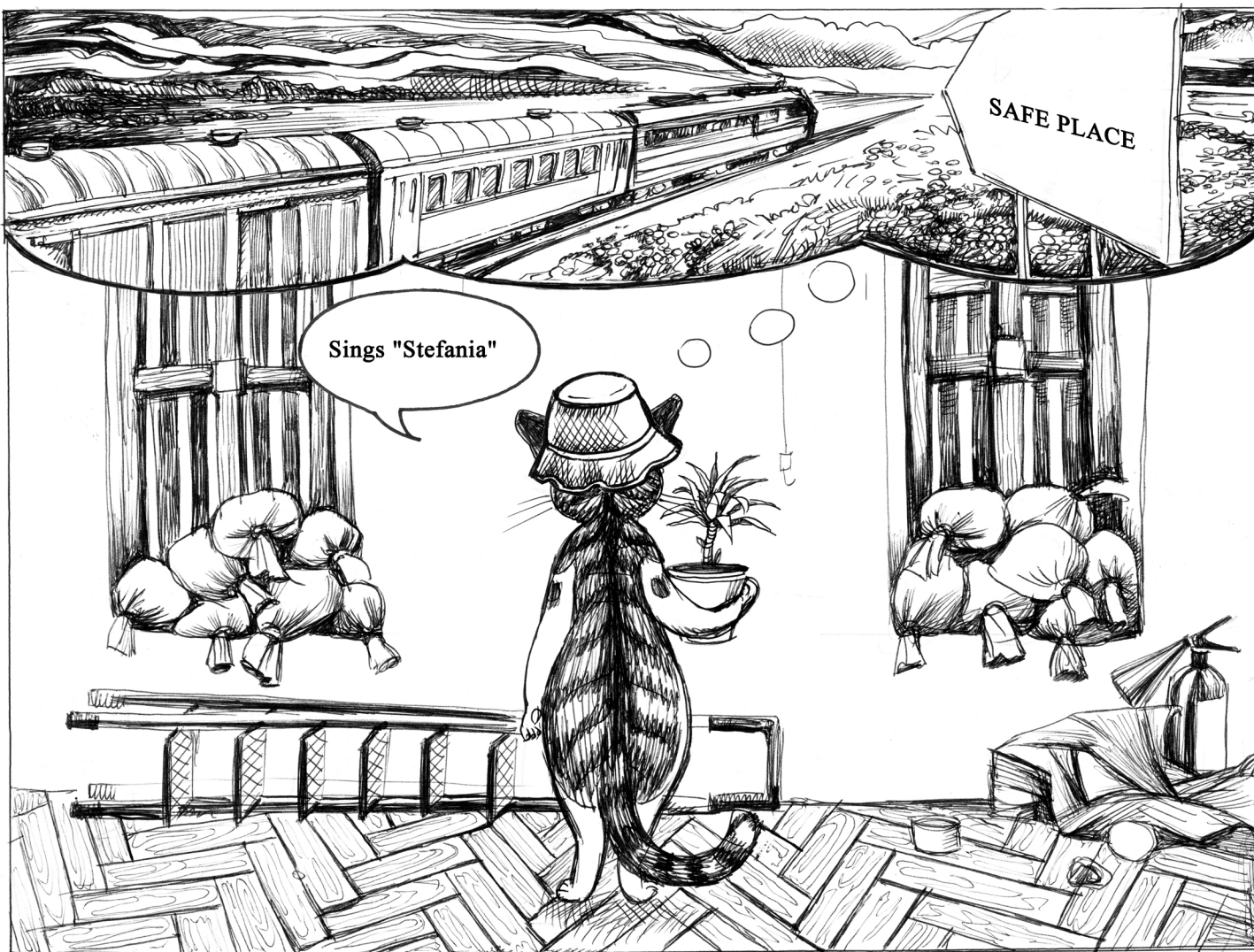


I'm painting on the Boulevard. What are you doing?

Did you hear the Caesar howitzers are coming?



I'm about to paint either. Paris is very beautiful, but I want to go home to Kherson.





Ukraine needs protection. A sort of the Great Wall of China, patrolled by fighter dragons.



Or better yet, the Motherland monument should hold the head of Medusa Gorgon to defend us against our enemies.





Life will overcome death, and light will overcome darkness,
as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.
Let's hold the line. We're working for victory.





**Odesa municipal museum
of personal collections
named after Oleksandr Bleschunov**

Autors: Olena Iliasova end Maria Apriatova

**Odesa municipal museum of personal collections
named after Olerkandr Bleschunov
Ukraine, Odesa, Polska street, 19**

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