



Image by Olkhovskie ©



## *Roots and Resilience: Growing Hope from Ashes*

An exhibition featuring the photography and writing of Alla Olkhovska

Curated by  
Sherry Coman

April 29 (Opening) 3:00 – 5:00  
Program 3:30 – 4:30

Apr 30 - May 14, 2026

Monday – Thursday, 9:00 – 4:30

Martin Luther University College Keffer Chapel



Ukrainian photographer and gardener Alla Olkhovska was the subject of a 2025 Keffer Chapel Art on the Wall exhibition called "Sowing Seeds of Beauty: An Artist Resists War." Now Alla returns to share with us more deeply about what it means to be an artist in wartime. Living in Kharkiv, near the border of Russia, Alla has spent twenty years growing rare seeds in her garden that are now sought after around the world. But war and harsh winters take their toll. A year later, Alla offers us a closer look at the cost of war while remaining as committed as ever to hope and beauty.

Curator Sherry Coman brings together written material by Alla, culled from her books and from original writing for this exhibition, to invoke the resilience of an artist and the land she belongs to. Alla's storied family history and the history of the garden form a compelling narrative of survival. Contact: Sherry Coman ([scoman@luther.wlu.ca](mailto:scoman@luther.wlu.ca))



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