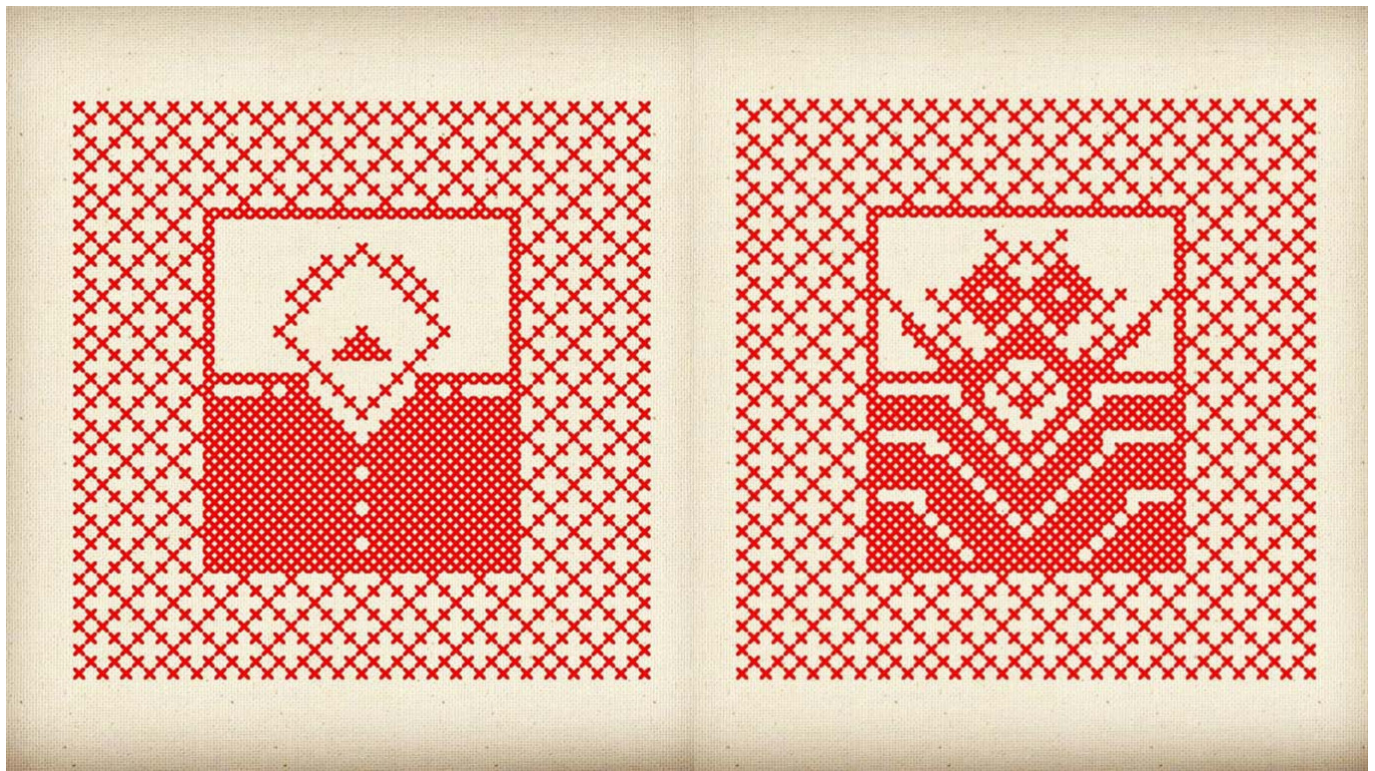


# Belarusian Artist Embroiders Her Country's Historic Protests

Rufina Bazlova uses traditional Belarusian embroidery in nontraditional ways.

August 14, 2020



Part of a series in which leader Alexander Lukashenko is transformed into a cockroach. [rufinabazlova / Instagram](#)

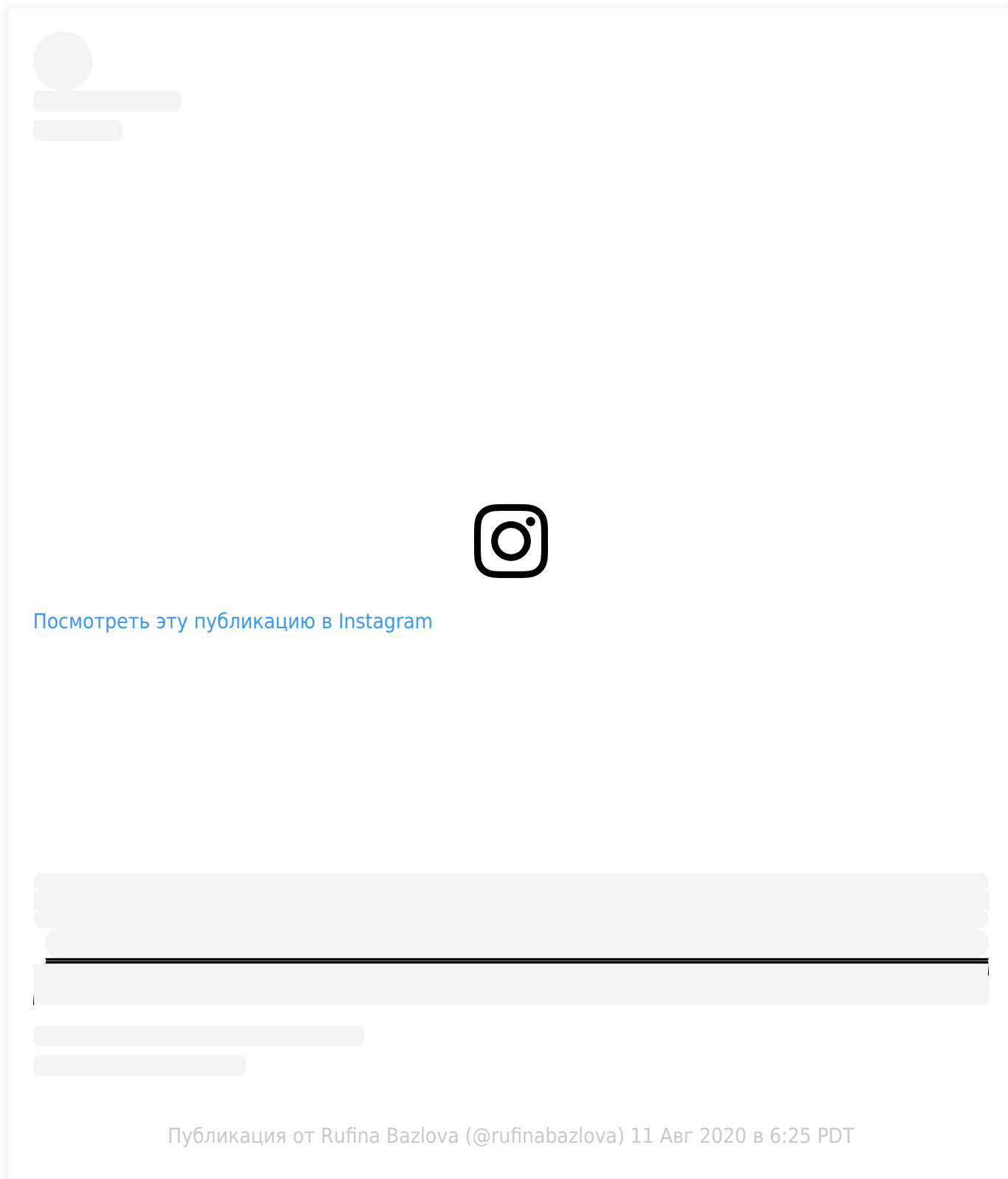
Rufina Bazlova is a Belarusian artist who has lived in the Czech Republic for 12 years. She is an illustrator and theater scenographer who has responded to events in her homeland through the medium of embroidery.

She [said](#) that the embroidery is a kind of "code" for the country's history, with red as the symbol for life.

The original flag of the Democratic Republic of Belarus in 1918 was red and white, but the Soviet-era flag and today's post-Soviet flag is green and red with some traditional Belarusian ornamentation. The red and white colors and flag have been adopted by protesters opposing

President Alexander Lukashenko's re-election.

Embed:



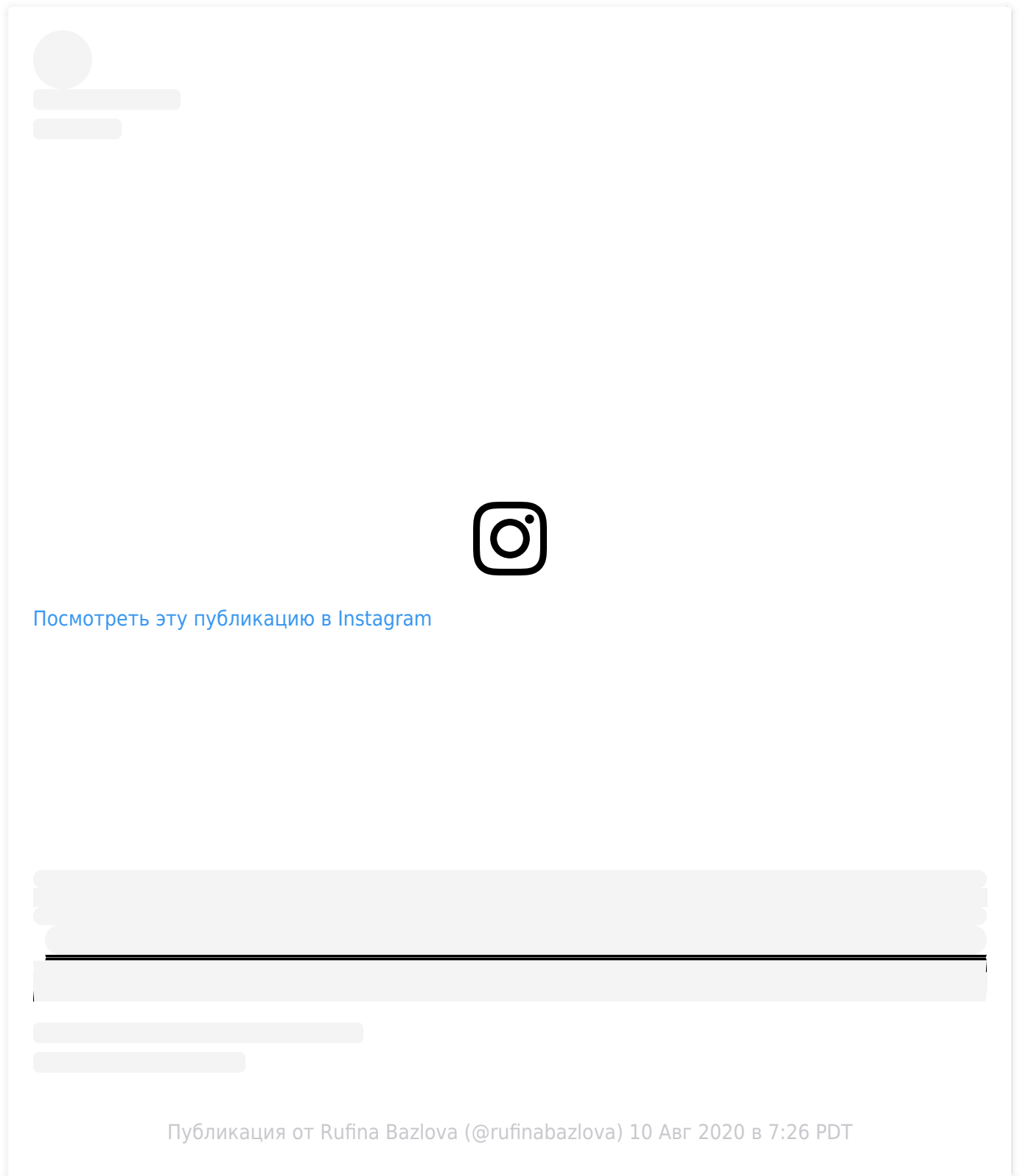
Placeholder for an Instagram post embed. The embed includes a profile picture, a name, a bio, a central Instagram logo, a link to view the post, a large redacted image area, and a caption at the bottom.

[Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram](#)

Публикация от Rufina Bazlova (@rufinabazlova) 11 Авг 2020 в 6:25 PDT

On Aug. 10 the first casualty was a young man who, according to authorities, was holding a home-made bomb that exploded in his hand. Other witnesses say he was hit by a stun grenade lobbed by the police to disperse the crowd of protesters.

**Embed:**

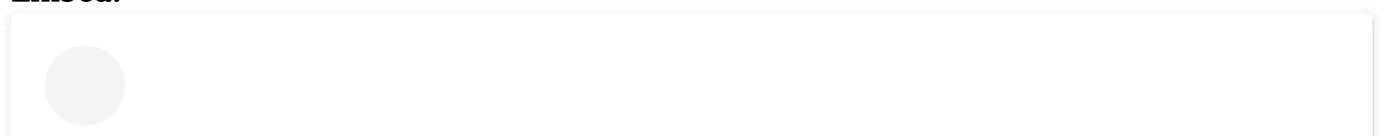


Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от Rufina Bazlova (@rufinabazlova) 10 Авг 2020 в 7:26 PDT

A police van runs over a person while protesters, below, stand off against police, above.

**Embed:**





[Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram](#)

Публикация от Rufina Bazlova (@rufinabazlova) 8 Авг 2020 в 8:02 PDT

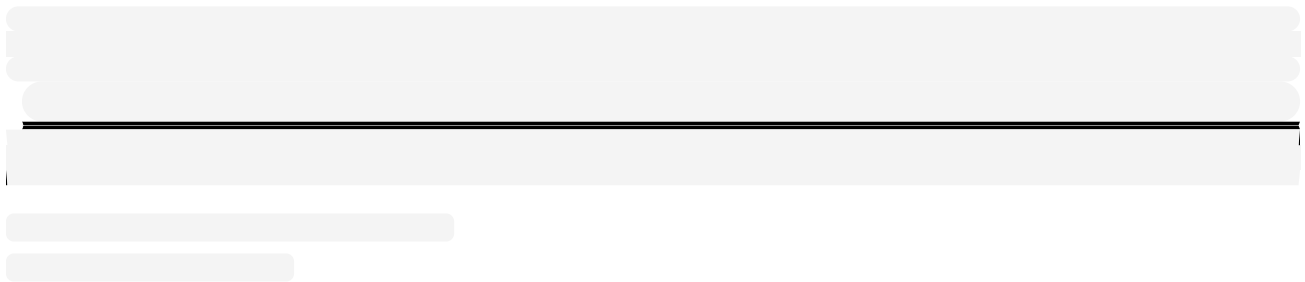
In this series women join together after the election and Lukashenko is depicted as a dead cockroach and a pile of excrement. In the run-up to Belarus' Aug. 9 election, the opposition has referred to Lukashenko as a cockroach.

**Embed:**





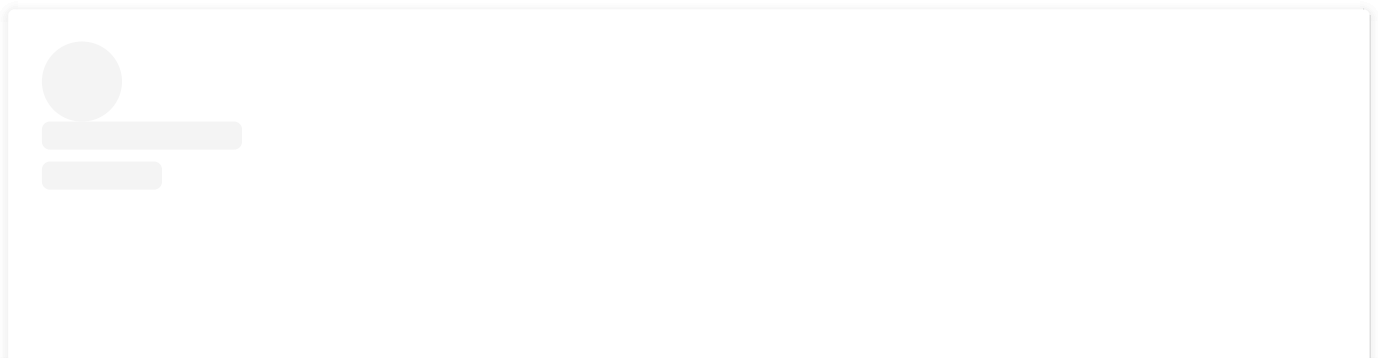
[Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram](#)



Публикация от Rufina Bazlova (@rufinabazlova) 11 Авг 2020 в 11:15 PDT

"Svetlana Tikhanovskaya is my president"

**Embed:**





[Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram](#)



Публикация от Rufina Bazlova (@rufinabazlova) 7 Авг 2020 в 11:45 PDT

**Protesters and police clash.**

**Embed:**





[Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram](#)



Публикация от Rufina Bazlova (@rufinabazlova) 9 Авг 2020 в 3:15 PDT

A demonstration of Belarusians held in Prague on Aug. 9.

**Embed:**





[Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram](#)



Публикация от Rufina Bazlova (@rufinabazlova) 7 Авг 2020 в 3:27 PDT

The transformation of a leader into a cockroach.

Bazlova [said](#) that although she works in different media, "this year's national awakening simply demanded this technique of national embroidery. The events of the past months represent a portion of our great history, Belarus changed, woke up, big changes are coming that must be written into the code of embroidery."

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/08/14/belarusian-artist-embroiders-her-countrys-historic-protests-a71150>