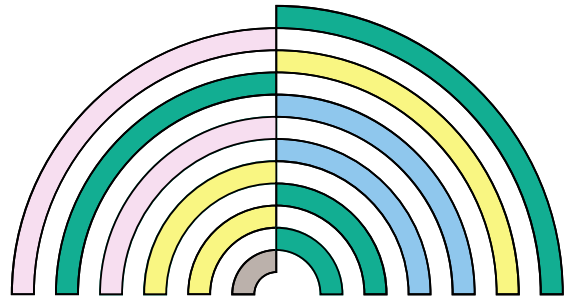




VELVET TERRORISM: PUSSY RIOT'S RUSSIA



**Velvet Terrorism:
Pussy Riot's Russia**
LSK-Galerie
6.9.24–9.4.25

Claudia Illi
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Press Images
In the Download Area:
[Hausderkunst.de/presse](http://hausderkunst.de/presse)

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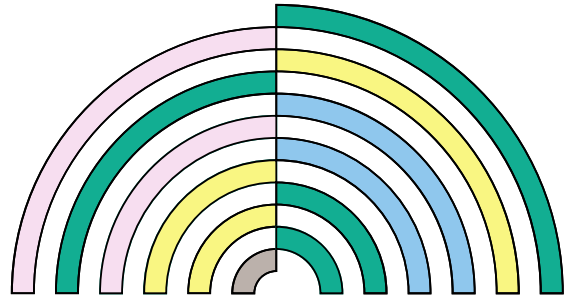
Cultural Learning and Engagement

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In the press area of the website

<http://www.hausderkunst.de/presse>

High Resolution Images



Fact Sheet

Organiser

Haus der Kunst
Prinzregentenstraße 1, 80538 München

Curators

Ragnar Kjartansson, Ingibjörg Sigurjónsdóttir, and Dorothee Maria Kirch (Kling&Bang, Reykjavik); Lydia Antoniou, Andrea Lissoni, Margarita (Haus der Kunst München)

Duration

6.9.24–9.4.25 | LSK-Galerie

Press

Claudia Illi

Press Conference

5.9.2024, 11 am | Terrassensaal

Opening Talk

5.9.2024, 6 pm | Terrassensaal

A conversation about the creation of the exhibition at Haus der Kunst will take place on the opening in the Terrassensaal. The discussion will feature Maria Alyokhina, Ragnar Kjartansson, and Lydia Antoniou, moderated by Andrea Lissoni.

Opening hours

Mon | Wed | Fri | Sat | Sun 10 am–8 pm

Thu 10 am–10 pm

Tue closed

Open Haus | Every last Friday of the month admission is free from 4 pm–10 pm.

Admission

Time slot ticket “Velvet Terrorism: Pussy Riot's Russia” 9 € | 6 € reduced

Hausticket Large 15 €

Hausticket Small 10 €

Hausticket Youth 5 €

Hausticket Kids 0 €

Journalists 5 €

365 Live 100 € | Haus der Kunst 365 50 € Single | 90 € Partner

Guided tours 5 €

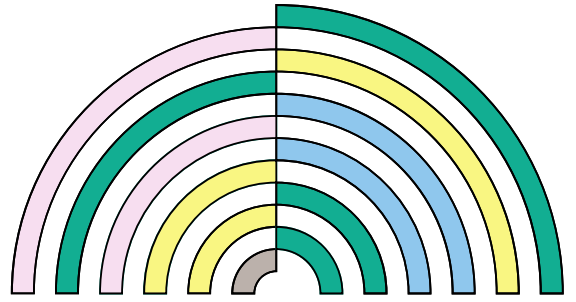
Freunde HDK, Art students, ICOM,

Severely disabled with ID free

Press Images

High resolution images can be found under:

<https://www.hausderkunst.de/presse>



Exhibition Catalogue

The catalogue “Velvet Terrorism: Pussy Riot's Russia” was produced in collaboration with several institutions in Europe and Canada – in particular the Louisiana Museum of Art in Copenhagen, where the exhibition has been a great success. It precisely reflects the content of the touring exhibition of the same name and is the largest display of the group's artistic work to date.

It is illustrated by a large selection of images and video stills as well as personal stories from Pussy Riot members. In addition to the iconic performances, such as “Punk Prayer” (2012), the exhibition catalogue also documents a variety of lesser-known actions as well as the escape of some of Pussy Riot's core members from Russia in 2022.

The catalogue is presented as a photographic collage from the perspective of Pussy Riot themselves and offers a critical and up-to-date insight into the development of Putin's Russia over the last twelve years with a photo archive that has never been exhibited before.

Exhibition Realisation

Production Coordination | Baldwin Maslim

Construction team | Markus Bradenburg, Chris Koch, Roland Roppelt, Marino Sokholov with the advice of Anton Köttl (Haus der Kunst München)

Dániel Ágúst Ágústsson, Lilja Gunnarsdóttir, Una Björg Magnúsdóttir, Melanie Ubaldo, Erling Thor Valsson (Kling&Bang, Reykjavik)

Exhibition texts

All texts of the exhibition can be accessed directly on site via a QR code on your own smartphone or can be read on the website.

Exhibition Graphics

Bureau Borsche

Thanks to

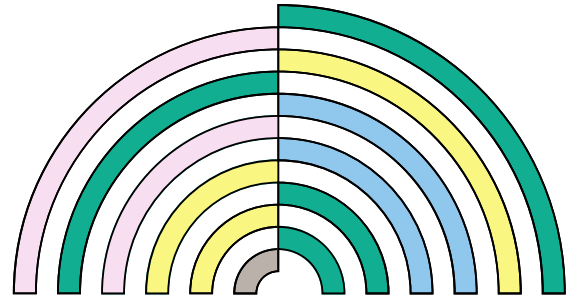
Freistaat Bayern

Freunde Haus der Kunst: Board and Team

Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung

Ulli und Uwe Kai-Stiftung

All departments of Haus der Kunst



Press Release
Velvet Terrorism:
Pussy Riot's Russia
6.9.24–9.4.25

"Riot is always a thing of beauty.

*At school, I had this dream of becoming an artist,
and I practised graffiti on my school notepad.*

*If you start your schoolwork on the first page and do your sketches in the back,
sooner or later the two will meet in the middle.*

AND, NEXT TO YOUR HISTORY NOTES, GRAFFITI APPEARS

which turns history into a different story."

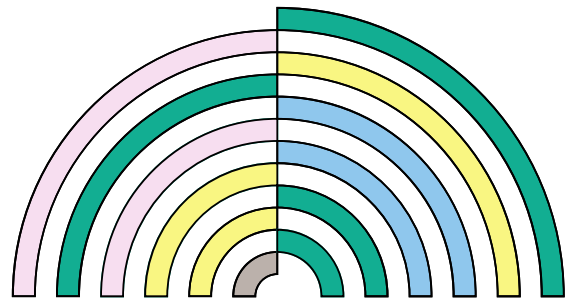
– Maria Alyokhina

Velvet Terrorism: Pussy Riot's Russia at Haus der Kunst is the largest presentation of the artistic collective's work to date, and the first museum exhibition in Germany devoted to Pussy Riot. It poses the urgent question of what resistance is in art, and which stories need to become a fundamental part of exhibition making nowadays.

In illustrating an increasingly hostile relationship between the feminist art collective and the state authorities, the exhibition offers essential insights into the evolution of Putin's Russia over the past decade, culminating in the military invasion of Ukraine. Over the years through their artistic practice, Pussy Riot have ingeniously converted the oppressive tools of an authoritarian state into a new collaborative force for creativity, fearlessly taking serious risks.

The exhibition is presented in the **LSK-Galerie**, nestled within the former air raid shelter of Haus der Kunst, a site visibly reflecting its foundation, and where the dark political climate in the late 1930s is particularly evident. "Velvet Terrorism: Pussy Riot's Russia" follows the solo exhibitions of African American artist Tony Cokes (2022), and the Australian Indigenous film collective Karrabing (2023), featuring overlooked histories through the lens of new and inventive visual languages. Just as both previous surveys in the former bunker confront major questions of the current political state of the world, "Velvet Terrorism: Pussy Riot's Russia" aims at pushing the boundaries of exhibition display towards a dense experience that is a fundamental chapter in recent world history, and a presentation of a groundbreaking practice that reinvents media languages.

The exhibition invites the public to take time, to experience, and read a personal journey entirely handwritten on walls over the period of three weeks at the bunker, by Maria Alyokhina, in an environment where an overload of videos and countless photographs blend in colours, humour, punk, and noise.



"Velvet Terrorism: Pussy Riot's Russia" at Haus der Kunst emerged from passionate exchanges with the Icelandic artist Ragnar Kjartansson, who first encountered Maria Alyokhina in Moscow. "Velvet Terrorism: Pussy Riot's Russia" is organised and toured by Maria Alyokhina and Kling & Bang, Reykjavik.

Haus der Kunst has been planning the exhibition since the beginning of 2023. Curated by Ragnar Kjartansson, Ingibjörg Sigurjónsdóttir and Dorothee Maria Kirch (Kling & Bang, Reykjavik); Lydia Antoniou, Andrea Lissoni, Margarita (Haus der Kunst München).

Online time slot tickets are required for "Velvet Terrorism: Pussy Riot's Russia" at LSK-Gallery to ensure visitors a comprehensive exhibition experience, despite the limited capacity in the gallery spaces. Available at www.hausderkunst.de.

Events in the course of the exhibition

Opening Talk

5.9.24, 6 pm | Terrassensaal

A conversation about the creation of the exhibition at Haus der Kunst will take place on the opening in the Terrassensaal. The discussion will feature Maria Alyokhina, Ragnar Kjartansson, and Lydia Antoniou, moderated by Andrea Lissoni.

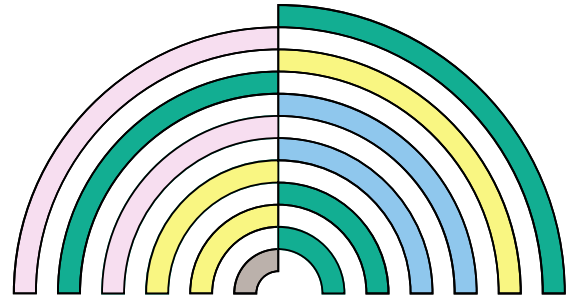
Filmscreening

2.12.24 at 7 pm | Auditorium

German premiere | 90 min | Icelandic, English, Russian

7€ | With the ticket for the film screening, you will receive a reduced ticket for the exhibition.

In 1992, only a week after the fall of the Soviet Union, the American soap opera "Santa Barbara" became for ordinary Russians a window into the western way of life and immensely popular with the nation. Thirty years later, shortly before the Russian invasion in Ukraine, Icelandic visual artist Ragnar Kjartansson opened a monumental exhibition at a new arts center called GES-2 in the heart of Moscow. In a former power plant that used to power the Kremlin, now owned and renovated for one of Russia's richest men, Kjartansson's main attraction was an unprecedented living sculpture called "Santa Barbara". The film follows Kjartansson throughout the installation of the exhibition at GES-2 in Moscow, offering a unique insight of his encounter with Maria Alyokhina of Pussy Riot and of the genesis of the exhibition "Velvet Terrorism: Pussy Riot's Russia".



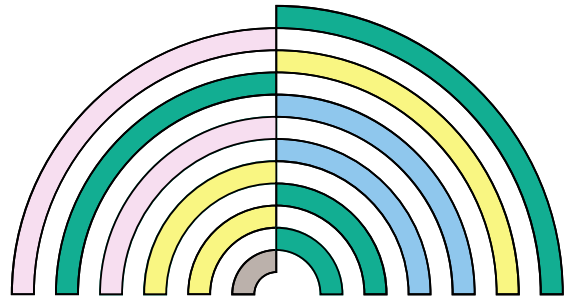
About

Pussy Riot
Maria Alyokhina
Ragnar Kjartansson

Punk, humour and colours – the Russian feminist political art collective **Pussy Riot** has been fighting against oppression in Russia for over a decade. Founded in Moscow in 2011, the group gained international recognition through their guerrilla performances at various locations, often addressing themes such as feminism, LGBTQ+ rights, and opposition to the Russian government's policies. Pussy Riot's work is deeply rooted in the tradition of performance art and punk rock, with music and photography at the core of their work. Their use of public spaces for performances underscores the urgency and rebellion against social norms and political oppression. Their work illustrates the power of art as a tool for social change, proving that creativity and courage can spark important conversations and inspire actions worldwide.

Maria Alyokhina is a Russian artist and political activist. She is the author of “Riot Days” (2017), which describes her stay in a Russian penal colony following a widely covered show trial in 2012. She is currently working on her second book, as well as performing in the show “Riot Days” alongside other members of Pussy Riot. The Pussy Riot collective is the recipient of the 2012 Lennon Ono Grant for Peace and received the Hannah Arendt Prize in 2014. Pussy Riot was awarded the 2023 Woody Guthrie Prize, which honours the spirit of resistance through music, literature, dance, and other art forms.

Ragnar Kjartansson is an Icelandic performance artist, painter, sculptor, and musician. He combines live performance with music to create seemingly romantic environments. Kjartansson explores the tragicomic aspects of life, where sadness meets joy, horror meets beauty, and drama meets humor. He plays with themes from art history – such as the painter and model, the sacred space of the artist's studio – which he then deconstructs by making his studio accessible to the public.



Cultural Learning and Engagement

Current educational programme

The programmatic strand at Haus der Kunst focused on Cultural Learning and Engagement positions the house as a meeting place that invites people to experiment, exchange, and enjoy. In addition to existing art education formats, the projects are developed together with experts from various art disciplines for a public of all ages.

Open Haus

Every last Friday of the month, Haus der Kunst opens its doors for "Open Haus". Admission is free from 4 pm until 10 pm. Open Haus offers space for encounters and creative exchange. There are free guided tours for children and adults through the exhibitions, an open workshop for all generations, activations of artworks and other surprises.

Next dates: 27.9.24 | 25.10.24

Public guided tours without registration

The current dates of the public exhibition tours: hausderkunst.de/kalender

Special dates:

- Curator guided tour in German with Andrea Lissoni
19.9. | 21.10. | 7.11.24 at 6.30 pm
- Curator guided tour in English with Lydia Antoniou
26.9. | 3.10.24 at 6.30 pm
- Family workshop in the Atelier
9.11. | 23.11. | 7.12. | 21.12.24 | 11.01. | 25.01.25 | 2 to 4 pm

All further public guided tours of "Velvet Terrorism: Pussy Riot's Russia" start from 14 October – every Thursday at 7 pm, Saturdays and Sundays at 4 pm (from December alternating with other exhibitions).

Workshops for school classes and young groups

- **Primary school to lower school age group:** After a brief insight into the exhibition, we create personal diaries with the children and address questions such as: "What do I want to fight for?" and "What is my motto for our society?"
- **Middle school to upper school:** In progress. From November, we will be offering workshops for school classes on the subject of fundamental rights, in particular freedom of expression and artistic freedom.

Guided tours for private groups

Guided tours for private groups – also in English and French – can be booked at any time. Appointments can be made at fuehrungen@hausderkunst.de.