

**THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM HAS ACQUIRED  
PUSSY RIOT'S *PUTIN'S ASHES*  
BY NADYA TOLOKONNIKOVA  
FOR ITS PERMANENT COLLECTION**



(more hi-res Putin's Ashes images [here](#) + artist photos [here](#))

**The Brooklyn Museum** has acquired **Pussy Riot's** art installation ***Putin's Ashes*** for its permanent collection. This remarkable piece of art, depicting the remains of Russian dictator **putin**, propelled Nadya Tolokonnikova into a new criminal case and put her on Russia's most wanted criminal, as well as the terrorist list. It is not taken lightly how unique it is to have a world-famous institution rally and advocate for including a politically "high-stakes" piece like ***Putin's Ashes***.

**Pussy Riot's *Putin's Ashes*** is currently part of **Nadya Tolokonnikova's *RAGE*** exhibition at **OK Linz** in Austria. It was first exhibited at **Jeffrey Deitch Gallery** in Los Angeles in January 2023, then traveled to **CONTAINER** in Santa Fe, NM, in June 2023, and went to **Dallas Contemporary** at the end of last year.

Tonya Turner Carroll and Michael Carroll from Turner Carroll Gallery in Santa Fe gifted the art piece to the Brooklyn Museum, adding to the museum's consequential lineup of modern and contemporary art.

**The Brooklyn Museum's Carmen Hermo says:** "*Fiery catharsis, fuzzy textures, and wry humor are some of the impulses behind Nadya Tolokonnikova's epic *Putin's Ashes*, which sees*

women coming together to burn Putin's portrait in an act of rage and retribution against patriarchy, tyranny, and the silencing of free speech in Russia-- and beyond. We are thrilled to have this important artwork by the globally admired Nadya Tolokonnikova enter the Center for Feminist Art Collection at the Brooklyn Museum.

The Brooklyn Museum collection features Judy Chicago's great *The Dinner Party*, as well as many other artworks elevating and challenging the notion of "women's art" in its Center for Feminist Art holdings. This exciting gift of *Putin's Ashes* by Nadya Tolokonnikova takes this idea in a radical direction, as she subverts the skills she was forced to learn sewing military uniforms in a prison labor camp in Russia. Rejecting imperial and violent goals, Nadya creates objects, actions, and performances to catalyze anti-patriarchal action, and we are thrilled that this work has entered our feminist art collection."

**Pussy Riot's creator Nadya Tolokonnikova adds:** *"The Brooklyn Museum has such a strong history of supporting feminist and political art. The museum gave a permanent home for one of the most iconic works of the last century - Judy Chicago's *The Dinner Party*, a monumental installation that made a profound influence on my art - and life, too. It's a great honor to be a part of The Brooklyn Museum's collection - and to work with a brilliant feminist curator and a curious mind Carmen Hermo."*

#### **About Pussy Riot's creator Nadya Tolokonnikova:**

Conceptual performance artist and activist Nadya Tolokonnikova is the creator of Pussy Riot, a global feminist protest art movement. Today, hundreds of people identify as a part of the Pussy Riot community.

She was sentenced in 2012 to 2 years' imprisonment following an anti-Putin performance. Went through a hunger strike protesting savage prison conditions and ended up being sent far away to a Siberian penal colony, where she managed to maintain her artistic activity and, with her prison punk band, she made a tour around Siberian labor camps.

Published a book *"Read and riot: Pussy Riot's guide to activism"*. Co-founder of independent news service and media outlet, [Mediazona](#), co-founder of the art-collecting collective **Unicorn DAO**, instrumental in raising over \$7 million for Ukraine, she has spoken before the US Congress, British Parliament, European Parliament, appeared as herself on season 3 of *House of Cards*, and performed at **Banksy's "Dismaland"** exhibition.

Pussy Riot's ***Punk Prayer*** was named by [The Guardian](#) among the best art pieces of the 21st century (*"feminist, explicitly anti-Putin, protesting the banning of gay pride and the Orthodox church's support of the president"*), endorsed by **Marina Abramović**, **Judy Chicago** and **Ai Weiwei**, created an immersive experience in London's Saatchi gallery, curated the auction "My Body, My Business" at **Sotheby's** etc.

Her protest art "*Virgin Mary, Please Become a Feminist*" and the *Putin's Ashes* art installation at Deitch Gallery in January 2023 propelled her into a new criminal case and put on **Russia's most wanted criminal list.**

She's exhibited at MoMA PS1, Palais de Tokyo, Saatchi Gallery, Louisiana Museum in Denmark, CONTAINER in Santa Fe, NM, Dallas Contemporary, among other places. Her first solo exhibition **RAGE** will open on June 21st at OK Linz in Linz, Austria. Tolokonnikova's works are included in the permanent collections of the Dallas Museum of Art, Zimmerli Museum, Ackland Museum of Art, and New Mexico Museum of Art. Tolokonnikova will be honored by the American Folk Art Museum in May.

#### **About the Brooklyn Museum:**

At the Brooklyn Museum, art is a vital force for personal transformation and social change. For 200 years, the Museum has expanded the definitions of art and what it means to be a museum by revealing untold stories and uplifting our shared humanity. Among the oldest, largest, and boldest art museums in the United States, the Brooklyn Museum holds an encyclopedic collection of over 500,000 objects representing more than 5,500 years of creativity from cultures around the globe. Highlights range from ancient Egyptian masterpieces and world-class American works to our Center for Feminist Art, the only one of its kind in the country. Housed in a landmark building in the heart of Brooklyn, the Museum is dedicated to its communities—both near and far—and remains an advocate for growth, healing, and social change.

<https://pussyriot.love/>

<http://www.instagram.com/nadya>

<https://www.instagram.com/pussyriot>

<https://twitter.com/nadyariot>

<https://twitter.com/pussyrrriot>

<https://unicorndao.com/>

<https://zona.media/>

[Nadya art bio, exhibitions, awards etc](#)  
[bio essay](#)

**For more information on Pussy Riot and Nadya Tolokonnikova, please connect:**

Gold Atlas - inge colsen - [inge@goldatl.as](mailto:inge@goldatl.as) - 212-203-5240

**For The Brooklyn Museum, please connect:**

Taylor Maatman - [Taylor.Maatman@brooklynmuseum.org](mailto:Taylor.Maatman@brooklynmuseum.org)