

**Velvet Terrorism:  
Pussy Riot's Russia**  
LSK Galerie  
6.9.24–2.2.25

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*"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.*

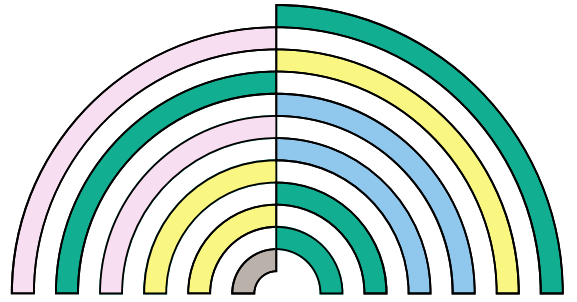
**AND, NEXT TO YOUR HISTORY NOTES, GRAFFITI APPEARS**

*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 air raid shelter of Haus der Kunst, the site where the building's complex history, dating back to its opening in 1937, 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).

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Haus der Kunst | LSK Galerie  
Prinzregentenstraße 1, 80538 München  
[www.hausderkunst.de](http://www.hausderkunst.de)

**Press event: Thursday, 5.9.24 at 11 am**

**Press images:** [hausderkunst.de/presse](http://hausderkunst.de/presse) and on request.

We would like to thank our sponsors: Freistaat Bayern, Gesellschaft der Freunde Haus der Kunst e.V., Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung und der Ulli und Uwe Kai-Stiftung.