

<https://www.colta.ru/news/29629-hudozhestvennoe-soobshchestvo-rossii-vystupilo-protiv-voyny?fbclid=IwAR0F5dj-3wx6nGAGkHRVlQAJlWeu6tMffEJeFyiQLNoodfy3NqM-AMiBkTI>

## **The art community in Russia spoke out against the war**

*More than two thousand Russian workers of culture and art – artists, curators, architects, critics, art historians, art managers – signed an open letter against the war with Ukraine.*

*The letter was posted by webzine Spectate, and the collection of signatures continues **here**. (\*the google doc was taken down, it was signed by 18 000 people in the end, see the short mention at <https://spectate.ru/art-worker-public-letter> translated on page 5) COLTA.RU gives the text of the letter in full:*

### **Open letter of Russian workers of culture and art against the war with Ukraine**

We, artists, curators, architects, critics, art critics, art managers – representatives of culture and art of the Russian Federation – have initiated and sign this open letter, which we consider insufficient, but necessary action on the way to peace between Russia and Ukraine.

On February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation launched a sudden, aggressive and open military offensive throughout Ukraine. The reason for it was declared as "protection of the inhabitants of the DNR and LNR," while military actions are conducted throughout Ukraine and in its major cities: Kiev, Lviv, Kharkiv, Odessa and others. A large number of our relatives, friends, acquaintances, and colleagues are among the residents of these cities. We demand that this war with Ukraine – a sovereign and independent state since 2014 – be stopped and that we begin to negotiate with it on a respectful and equal basis.

The war in Ukraine is a terrible tragedy for Ukrainians and Russians alike. It causes enormous loss of life, jeopardizes the economy and security, and leads our country into total international isolation. At the same time, it makes absolutely no sense – any coercion to peace through violence is absurd. The pretext under which the deployment of the "special operation" took place was entirely constructed by representatives of the Russian authorities, and we are opposed to this war being waged in our name.

Our primary concern now is the fate of Ukrainians, their lives and safety!

However, on behalf of the professional community, it is also important to say that further escalation of the war will have irreparable consequences for artists and cultural workers. It will take away our last opportunities to work fully, to express ourselves, to create projects, to promote and develop culture, and it will take away our future. Everything that has been done in the cultural plan for the last 30 years is now at stake: all international connections will be severed, cultural private or state institutions will be mothballed, partnerships with other countries will be suspended. All this will destroy the already fragile economy of Russian culture and significantly reduce its significance both for Russian society and for the international community as a whole. It will be virtually impossible to engage in culture and art under these conditions.

We, artists, curators, architects, critics, art critics, art managers - representatives of culture and art of the Russian Federation - express our absolute solidarity with the people of Ukraine and say a resolute "NO TO WAR! We demand the immediate cessation of all hostilities, the withdrawal of troops from the territory of Ukraine and the holding of peace talks.

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*Russian artists, architects, designers, art historians, historians, employees of museums, archives and libraries, and art collectors made an appeal to stop the war. Their appeal to Russian citizens was published on the Facebook of architect **Evgeny Assa**.*

***Hundreds of Russian animators signed an open letter in connection with the military campaign against Ukraine.***

*By 12:30 Moscow time on February 26, more than 675,000 signatures had been collected in an anti-war petition on [Change.org](https://change.org).*

P.S. COLTA.RU received an open letter from **children's literature workers**:

Mr. President. Gentlemen deputies, ministers, senators, we appeal to you because you are responsible for this war.

On February 24, 2022, Russian armed forces invaded Ukraine. This is not a peacekeeping operation, as you call it, this is war.

We, citizens of the Russian Federation, children's writers, publishers, translators, illustrators, critics, librarians, educators, demand an end to this military operation, this war against Ukraine.

We work for children, and poets and writers know how to tell and write about the war, about its horrors and grief. But we don't want to and won't talk about a special operation – because this is war.

Children's literature speaks to children about the future, preparing them for a decent adult life. We cannot and do not want to talk to them about the life you offer them. By dragging Russia into this war, you are depriving the children of your country of their future. We demand the immediate withdrawal of our troops from Ukraine.

Alexei Oleynikov, children's writer, poet, writer, literature teacher

Olga Drobot, translator

Nina Dashevskaya, writer

Maria Boteva, writer

Vitaly Zyusko, publisher

Asya Kravchenko, writer

Natalia Volkova, children's writer, translator, teacher

Natalia Savushkina, writer, literary critic, teacher

Marina Kadetova, editor

Alexey Kopeikin, critic, bibliographer, editor

Irina Balakhonova, publisher

Tamara Mikheeva, children's writer

Anna Ignatova, children's writer and teacher

Olga Kolpakova, writer, journalist

Dmitry Gasin, poet

Ksenia Kovalenko, publisher

Aya En (Aya Kreteva), children's writer, editor

Tim Yarzombek, illustrator

Olga Varshaver, translator, playwright

Kseniya Timenchik, translator, teacher

Maria Liudkovskaya, translator

Marina Boroditskaya, children's writer, poet, translator

Natalya Tumashkova, psychologist and children's writer

Olga Gurevich, translator

Anna Krasilshchik, writer

Elena Leenson, translator

Natalia Mavlevich, Translator

Elena Baibikova, Translator

Olga Bukhina, translator, specialist in children's literature

Nadezhda Kruchenitskaya, publisher

Anna Shur, host of the book podcast "Expecto Patronus"

Anna Sidorova, translator

Irina Bogatryova, writer, folklorist

Natalya Yaskina, illustrator

Irina Lukyanova, journalist, teacher, writer

Natalya Klyuchareva, writer

Elena Litvyak (Semerikova), children's writer, historian

Nikolai Ponomarev, writer

Dina Sabitova, children's writer

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**Evgeny Asse's post on Facebook mentioned on Coltra.ru:**

<https://www.facebook.com/evgeny.asse/posts/5064656746919897>)

I understand that our letters will not stop this nightmare, but to remain silent is a crime.

We – Russian artists, architects, designers, art historians, museum, archive and library staff, art collectors – appeal to all sensible compatriots, responsible citizens of Russia.

We expect your support for our common desire to put an end to the military invasion of Ukraine, launched at dawn on February 24 by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

Our slogans - NO WAR! and I/We UKRAINE – will remain pretty phrases for Facebook, for rally posters or t-shirt prints. To truly stop the war, we must turn to its organizers. In the first day of the conflict they already have the blood of several hundred soldiers and civilians on their hands, who have died for nothing. Every day after that, more lives will be lost. And because this is happening in Ukraine, the victory of regular Russian troops will not solve anything. There will be a guerrilla struggle against the aggressor that will last for many years. So we have tens of thousands of coffins and funerals waiting for us in our villages. What are these sacrifices for? Scratch away the husk of the verbal lie about "denazification", and the senselessness of this gamble is exposed. It was created by the geopolitical delirium and excessive hubris of a person known to all of us – President Vladimir Putin. In twenty years of one-man rule he has managed to subordinate the collective leadership of Russia. From the legal point of view, all these superiors – members of the State Duma, and members of the Federation Council, and members of the Security Council of the Russian Federation – voted "for" and, therefore, are also responsible for the fratricidal murder unleashed by Russia. But as we know – they voted mostly out of cowardice, servility, cowardice or indifference. The real initiator and director of the attack was the President himself.

To remove Putin from Russian power is to end the war.

We demand the immediate resignation of Vladimir Putin, and we call upon you to do the same. Without your support, without your active participation, ingenuity and creativity nothing will be possible. It is important to understand that together we have a real chance of success. Support for Putin is fading before our eyes, while the percentage of people who support the end of the war is growing, especially as the list of the fallen is being expanded.

Let's save Russia's reputation, let's preserve an independent and sovereign Ukraine, and let's end the war!

**Andrei Erofeev** - art historian, critic

Natalya Smolyanskaya - artist, philosophy teacher

Leonid Bazhanov - art historian, Professor, Department of Communications, Media and Design, Higher School of Art and Design

Kira Dolinina - art critic, associate professor at European University in St. Petersburg.

Natalia Semenova - art historian, art critic

Elena Selina - contemporary art expert, gallery owner

Anastasiya Kozachenko-Stravinskaya - art historian, art critic

Karina Karayeva - candidate of art history, curator

Anna Tolstova - art historian, art critic

Elizaveta Plavinskaya - art historian, art critic

Lyubov Shaks, gallery owner

Evgeniy Asse, architect

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<https://spectate.ru/art-worker-public-letter/>

## Open Letter to Russian Art and Culture Workers

**Art and culture workers across Russia are signing an open letter for peace in Ukraine.**

*Here was an open letter from arts and culture workers with their views on the "special military operation" \* signed by more than 18,000 people. On March 4, 2022, a "fake news law" was passed, providing for a fine or jail time. At this time, the collection of signatures has been suspended and the text of the letter and signatures are hidden for the safety of all signatories. \*They mean the petition on the first page.*

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*\* At the request of the state, we cannot call the "special military operation" anything else. We remind that according to Article 54 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, "The law establishing or aggravating responsibility shall not have retroactive force", and "No one shall be held responsible for an act which at the time of its commission was not recognized as an offence".*

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A google doc with another petition (a link posted by **Andrei Erofeev** on FB):

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/13FTWHuwl6d6ZpHZkj1uPqA5mjr-B8hbObGXwwz946tY/edit?fbclid=IwAR3ICNoekdvd1LF6frh1pikxuWkDKLsplolF667tmVfIK - KKF28apsPb9g](https://docs.google.com/document/d/13FTWHuwl6d6ZpHZkj1uPqA5mjr-B8hbObGXwwz946tY/edit?fbclid=IwAR3ICNoekdvd1LF6frh1pikxuWkDKLsplolF667tmVfIK-KKF28apsPb9g)

We – Russian artists, architects, designers, art historians, museum, archive and library staff, and art collectors – appeal to all responsible Russian citizens.

We expect your support for our common desire to end the military invasion of Ukraine.

The slogan NO WAR! – is being uttered today by everyone – protesters, policemen and ministers alike. To really stop the war, we must deal with its organizers. They have on their hands the blood of several hundred Russians and Ukrainians who died for nothing on the first day of the conflict. Every subsequent day will claim as many, if not more, lives. At the end of the week the figure will be over a thousand, at the end of the month ... do the math. And since this is happening in Ukraine, the victory of the regular troops, even if it takes place, will not solve anything. There will be a guerrilla struggle against the occupant. It will drag on for many years. In general, there will be tens of thousands of coffins waiting for us in our villages. Why such sacrifices? Scrape away the husk of verbal lies about "denazification", and the meaninglessness of this adventure becomes naked. This war has no objective reasons. It was created by the geopolitical ambitions and fantasies of a man we all know - Russian President Vladimir Putin. Although, legally, the responsibility for the fratricide unleashed by Russia is borne by all the collective leadership of Russia. But we know that deputies of the State

Duma, members of the Federation Council, and members of the Security Council voted for the war with Ukraine out of cowardice, cowardice, cowardice, or indifference. The real initiator and director of this tragedy was the president himself.

The easiest form of retribution for the gross political errors that caused the suffering and death of thousands of people is resignation.

We support the immediate resignation of Vladimir Putin as President of the Russian Federation, because we understand: if Putin resigns, the war will end; if he remains, the massacre will continue.

Citizens of Russia, we urge you to join our demand. Without your support, without your active participation, ingenuity and creativity nothing will be possible. It is important to understand that together we have a real chance of success. Support for Putin is thawing before our eyes, and the percentage of people who want to end the war is growing by the day, as our list of irreversible losses grows longer.

Let's save Russia's reputation, let's save our children's lives, and let's end the war!

Andrey Erofeev - art historian, critic

Leonid Bazhanov - art critic, Professor, Department of Communications, Media and Design, Higher School of Art and Design

Kira Dolinina - art critic, associate professor at European University in St. Petersburg

Natalia Semenova - art historian, art critic

Elena Selina - contemporary art expert, gallery owner

Anastasiya Kozachenko-Stravinskaya - art historian, art critic

Karina Karayeva - candidate of art history, curator

Anna Tolstova - art historian, art critic

Elizaveta Plavinskaya - art historian, art critic

Andrey Shabanov, art historian, curator

Tatiana Volkova - art historian, curator, researcher

Kirill Tulin – artist

Ludmila Bredikhina, member of International Association of Art Historians

Olga Beskina-Labas - artist

Olga Medvedkova - art historian, writer

Alina Fedorovich - art historian

Ildar Galeev - artist

Danila Tkachenko - artist

Arkady Ippolitov - artist

Vadim Fishkin - artist

Polina Ermakova - art historian, publisher

Konstantin Kuzminsky, book designer, publisher

Dmitry Bulatov - artist, art theorist, curator

Natalia Kapelyanskaya - art critic

Sergey Fofanov - art critic

Ekaterina Degot - Candidate of Art History, Corresponding Member of Academy of Arts, curator

Irina Chmireva - curator, art expert

Milena Orlova - journalist, art critic.

Alexander Reikhstein, artist and designer

Olga Petrunenko - artist

Pavel Gerasimenko - art critic, art historian

Evgeniya Kikodze - art critic, curator

Antonio Geusa - art historian, critic, curator

Peter Laden - artist

Valery Ledenev - artist, art critic

Anna Chudetskaya - art critic

Oleg Eliseev - artist

Evgeny Kukoverov - artist

Julia Lebedeva - art critic

Anatoly Golubovsky - culture expert, museum expert

Anatoly Osmolovsky - artist

Ilya Falkovsky - artist

Julia Liderman - sociologist

Tatiana Volkova - cultural expert, archivist

Alexander Melamid - artist

Ekaterina Arnold - artist

Anna Buali - art historian

Julia Fish (Grpachikova) - artist

Aleksey Podkydyshev - artist

Evgeny Umansky - curator, artist

Fedor Pavlov-Andreevich - artist, curator

Anastasiya Spirenkova - researcher, producer

Maria Kiseleva - artist

Natalia Nikulenkova - artist

Vera Zamyslova - researcher, art critic

Mikhail Kamensky - art historian

Anastasia Istomina - researcher

Igor Smekalov - art historian

Ilya Voznesensky - architect, artist

Alena Kirtsova - artist

Irina Mak - art critic

Yuri Avvakumov - architect, artist

Elena Sorokina - curator

Olga Shishko - art historian

Kathy Chukhrov - philosopher, art theorist

Sergey Sapozhnikov - artist

Boris Friedman - collector

Elizaveta Konovalova - artist

Irina Karasik - art historian

Mikhail Labazov - architect

Tatiana Sushenkova - artist

Alexander Delfinov (Smirnov) - poet, performance artist

Anna Pyankova - art gallery director, executive director of Ural Industrial Biennale of Contemporary Art

Olga Monina - artist

Larisa Kashuk - art historian, curator

Yuri Albert - artist

Ladimira Artemova - art historian

Natalya Nusinova - manager

Irina Valdron - artist

Alexander Kronik - collector



Maria Fedorova

Elena Korolyova - architect

Alexander Galitsky - artist

Ulyana Dobrova - art expert

Pavel Alyoshin - poet, art expert

Marat Gelman - art dealer, curator

Kseniya Korobeinikova - art expert

Sergey Skuratov - architect

Alexey Uvarov

Marina Kokhan - art historian

Katya-Anna Taguchi - artist

Yeldena Vasyutinskaya - art historian

Mikhail Lazarev - art critic

Surya Sadekova

Daria Beskina - art critic, gallery owner

Olga Zatokovenko-Kholodova

Grigory Raikhman

Svetlana Potapova - historian

Kristina Delok-Furko

Inna Ashley - artist, art historian

Lyudmila Mashanskaya - art historian

Yulia Gelman - gallery owner

Natalia Ardashnikova

Olga Florenskaya - artist

Maria Trusova - artist, teacher

Asya Flitman - artist

Maria Podjapolskaya - historian, tour guide

Semen Agroskin - artist

Tamara Zinovieva - art historian

Alexander Yastrebenetsky - artist, member of the Russian Academy of Arts

Sergey Razdobudko - collector

Elizaveta Morozova - artist

Lelya Kantor-Kazovskaya - art historian

Alexandra Lebedeva - editor

Vladimir Dlugach - art historian, museum worker

Alla Shilova - curator

Elena Getmanskaya - historian

Larisa Anaya

Vadim Zakharov - artist

Dmitriy Vilensky - artist

Arina Grantseva - artist

Valentina Belyaeva - art expert

Anna Konovalova (Anka Ltf) - artist, teacher.

Eva Helky - artist

Marina Koldobskaya - artist

Natalia Pshenichnikova - musician

Ekaterina Dronova - artist

Tamara Galeeva - teacher, Department of History of Art and Museum Studies of Ural Federal University

Svetlana Gusarova - editor

Natalia Smolyanskaya - artist, philosopher

Ksenia Yablonitskaya - artist

Alexander. Politsyn - artist

Maria Ovchinnikova - artist

Vika Begalskaya - artist

Tatyana Goryacheva, art historian

Dmitriy Okruzhnov - artist

Maria Sharova - artists

Rostislav Lebedev - artist

Svetlana Gusarova - editor

Andrey Volkov - artist

Magomed Kazhdayev - Artist

Joseph Dashevsky - artist

Mikhail Grobman - artist

Pavel Nikolenko - art journalist, curator

Anastasia Martynova - art expert

Sergey Prokofyev - artist