

My name is Viola, I live in Saint-Petersburg, Russia.

At the present time I study at the School of journalism and documentary photography. My photography is socially- and activist-oriented.

Now I am shooting a project related to the human rights abuses in Russia. It's the ongoing project, most part are already done and I plan to finalize it by the end of May.

It is a documentary project with staged photos (Post-Documentary), that recreates visual images based on real administrative and criminal cases in Russia. The idea is to show how so-called "anti-extremist legislation" due to its obscure wording opens up wide opportunities for rendering and using it in the way that suppresses the freedom of speech, assembly and association, freedom of information and freedom of conscience.

The situation when the state acts as a censor, not only in the literal sense (as was the case with the "Tannhäuser" play), but also in the figurative - when the laws itself and judicial practice essentially prohibit certain themes and images ("disrespecting the days of military glory," disagreement with official state policy, criticism of anti-Ukrainian propaganda, military campaigns or religion, etc.).

While preparing the project, I realized that self-censorship is also inevitable in order not to fall under the Article. For example, how to portray a case about insult "the feelings of believers" and not insult it, when in fact the church monopolized the very image of the cross (and not even Orthodox cross but any).