L'ŒUVRE

TITRE : *Carcass* | **ARTISTE :** Piotr Pavlenski | **DATE :** 3 Mai 2013 | **LIEU :** Assemblée législative de Saint-Pétersbourg, Russie | **MÉDIUM :** Performance

Carcass

On May 3, 2013, Pavlensky held a political protest against repressive government policies. His assistants brought him naked, wrapped in a multilayered cocoon of barbed wire, to the main entrance of the Legislative Assembly of Saint Petersburg. The artist remained silent, lying still in a half-bent position inside the cocoon, and did not react to the actions of others until he was released by the police with the help of the garden clippers.

In her interview with Radio Liberty, Pavlensky's colleague Oksana Shalygina men- tioned that a metaphor of the action had its immediate realization in the reality: as soon as the barbed wire was cut off, and the artist was freed from it, the same exact wire wrapped him back in with police, ambulances and numerous field inves- tigators.

Later, Pavlensky made the following comment about his art work:

A series of laws aimed at suppressing civic activism, intimidation of the popula- tion, steadily growing number of political prisoners, the laws against NGOs, the 18+ laws, censorship laws, activity of Federal Service for Supervision of Commu- nications, Information Technology and Mass Media, "promotion of homosexuality" laws – all these laws aren't aimed against criminals, but against the people. And at last the Blasphemy law. That is why I organized this action. The human body is naked like a carcass, there is nothing on it except the barbed wire, which by the way was invented the for protection of livestock. These laws like the wire, keep people in individual pens: all this persecution of political activists, "prisoners of May, 6", governmental repressions is the metaphor of the pen with the barbed wire around it. All this has been done in order to turn people into gutless and securely guarded cattle, which can only consume, work, and reproduce.: Dmitry Volchek, "Cultural Diary: On Good Friday», Radio Liberty, May 8