

## A Shrine For Girls, Installation by Patricia Cronin

By Grace Moon | May 7th, 2015 | 1:03 pm



*The Venice Biennial starts this Friday the 9th and runs through November 22, 2015.*

New York artist Patricia Cronin, known for her bold social statements and use of traditional media in the form of cast bronze, marble, water color and oils, has a conceptionally driven installation on view during the Venice Biennial in the Church of San Gallo called, "A Shrine For Girls." Curated by Ludovico Pratesi in conjunction with the Brooklyn Rail's curatorial project for the Biennial, Cronin has created, as the title describes, a shrine for young women and girls who have been victims of gang rape and other violent and oppressive atrocities.

The Installation consists of clothing worn by recent victims of sexual violence in India as well as the school girls captured by Boko Haram, in addition to the oppressive institutions in place in the western world which have

The central altar exhibits brightly colored saris worn by girls in India, three of who were recently gang raped, murdered and left to hang from trees. The left altar displays hijabs representing the 276 schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram in Nigeria. And the third altar presents a pile of aprons and uniforms symbolizing those worn by girls at the Magdalene Asylums and Laundries, forced labor institutions for young women without options in the Europe and America as recently as 1996.

— Brooklyn Rail

Cronin has always wed social issues with personal experience in her figurative work. Her most well known piece being the iconic "Memorial to a Marriage" depicting the artist and her partner of many years (now legally wed), the painter Deborah Kass. The work is installed on the plot of the couples' future grave at the Woodlawn Cemetery. Cronin's work has garnered her critical attention awarding her the highly sought Anonymous Was A Woman grant, the Tiffany grant, the Rome Prize and many others. Her works can be seen in Museums and galleries around the country, and if you happen to be on your way to [Venice](#) this summer.