

278 Collateral Damage

At the writing of this catalog, in mid-March 2022, the world is witnessing unprecedented, deliberate civilian casualties in Ukraine at the hands of Russian invaders. Just a few days ago, Russian missiles struck a theater in Mariupol, clearly labeled CHILDREN, sheltering 1,300 women and children. To date, rescue crews have identified only 130 survivors; hundreds of bodies remain in the wreckage.

This is just one example of Russia's horrific wartime strategies and the catastrophe left in their wake.

I sculpted this figure as I reflected on so-called "collateral damage," specifically that caused by America's use of drones and other weapons in Syria and Afghanistan. Accurate casualty counts from these strikes have been suppressed. Meanwhile, other countries have committed similar, or worse, atrocities in Iraq, Libya, Somalia, and Yemen.

The difference in Ukraine is that Russia intended to kill civilians. The damage isn't collateral at all. It is the point.

This figure, with all her hands-on weapons and an inherently protected spine, doesn't have a chance of survival against drone strikes and bombs.