Johann Nikadimus

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I'm an artisan and embroiderer, working in a language most people think has been lost. Since 2015 I've been making accessories by hand the way craftsmen worked centuries ago — replicas of ancient headdresses and modern gala tiaras.

My craft is pearl embroidery and goldwork, bringing together antique and modern materials: ethnic textiles and vintage beads alongside fabrics from the great fashion houses. Lately I've been drawn to bridal work — to the quiet way a wedding transforms a woman. A headdress sits at the centre of that moment, and I love making the piece that carries her from one life into the next.

Exhibitions & Events

Member of the **Homo Faber Guide** – Michelangelo Foundation

2026 **XTANT – festival, leadership program**
Palma de Mallorca, Spain · May

2025 **Uldus Bakhtiozina – photography exhibition**
Moscow, Russia · 27 Jun – 27 Aug

2025 **Helping by Heart – charity auction**
Belgrade, Serbia · 12 Jun

2024 **Homo Faber – craft exhibition**
Venice, Italy · 1–30 Sep

2024 **Intl. Gold Embroidery & Jewellery Festival**
Bukhara, Uzbekistan · May

2022 **Cultural Code – exhibition**
Catacomba Gallery, Moscow, Russia · May

2021 **Cartier [Sur]Naturel – special artist**
St. Petersburg, Russia

2021 **Pearl & Mother-of-Pearl – exhibition**
State Darwin Museum, Moscow, Russia

2019-20 **Normal Kokoshnik – exhibition**
Syktyvkar · Izhevsk, Russia

2019 **Craft Meetings – workshop**
Belomorsk, Russia

2017 **NEO – exhibition**
All-Russian Museum of Decorative Art, Moscow, Russia

2015-17 **Russian Seasons – exhibition**
Tomsk · Irkutsk, Russia

2025 **XTANT – festival**
Palma de Mallorca, Spain · May

2025 **Svoyasi – exhibition**
State Historical Museum, Moscow, Russia · 5 Mar – 11 Aug

2025 **Dmitry Bulin – photography exhibition**
MAMM, Moscow, Russia

2024 **Kaleidoscope – personal exhibition**
Novi Sad, Serbia · 6–11 Sep

2023 **KEY 3 – personal exhibition**
MAAT Gallery, Novi Sad, Serbia · Jan

2022 **Traditional embroideries – course leader**
British Higher School of Art and Design, Moscow, Russia

2021 **Eurovision Song Contest – headpiece designer**
Rotterdam, Netherlands

2021 **When the Pomegranate Blooms – workshop**
Silk Factory, Kolomna, Russia

2019 **NEO·Promysly – forum**
St. Petersburg, Russia

2019 **Design Subbotnik – workshop**
Moscow, Russia

2017 **From Craft to Design – exhibition**
State Darwin Museum, Moscow, Russia

2015 **From Heaven to Earth – exhibition**
Kazan, Russia

Every stitch is a question I'm asking about where I come from.

I began with the old headdresses because I wanted to understand my own origin — as an Assyrian and Tatar artist born in Russia — the way you can only understand something by making it with your hands. A kokoshnik is not just an ornament — it is a record: of who a woman was, whether she was married, what region she belonged to, what her family could afford. To rebuild one stitch by stitch is to read that record slowly, and to feel how much of a life was once carried on the head.

The deeper I go into pearl embroidery and goldwork, the more the work becomes about women — the ones who wore these pieces, and the ones who made them, whose names history rarely kept. I'm drawn to that quiet lineage: the passage from girl to bride to matriarch that these headdresses once marked, and still mark today. In studying the technique, I'm studying them.

Every piece is made entirely by hand using the original techniques, in both vintage and contemporary designs — some faithful to historical forms, others new interpretations of them.