# Cosey Fanni Tutti warns against art’s shift from authenticity to commercialism



Cosey Fanni Tutti, a pioneering figure in the avant-garde and industrial music scenes, recently engaged in a candid conversation reflecting on her transformative journey as an artist. As a founding member of Throbbing Gristle and COUM Transmissions, she is often regarded as a vanguard of radical art, challenging societal norms with her provocative performances and installations. In an era filled with artistic commodification, Tutti expressed concern over the current landscape of art, suggesting that it has become increasingly transactional, driven by a need for monetary success rather than raw, authentic expression.

According to Tutti, the 1970s represented a time of unabashed freedom, where artists could squat and create without financial pressures dictating their work. "There was nothing," she stated, contrasting the present economic climate, which she feels stifles creativity in favour of commercial viability. Now, much of contemporary art appears more as a business venture than a platform for personal expression. However, she highlights groups like Kneecap—who produce music that resonates with honesty and raw energy—as pivotal figures today, bringing uncomfortable yet powerful truths to the forefront. “If your art or music is true and honest,” Tutti noted, “it does hold a power and strength that some people might find uncomfortable, and therefore it gets hit.”

Reflecting on her earlier work, particularly the controversial “Prostitution” exhibition in 1976, Tutti recalled how it incurred personal fallout, including disownment from her parents, yet it also opened critical dialogues about sexuality and societal norms. Living in Norfolk today, she finds a contrasting peace—one that nurtures her creative spirit through the beauty of her surroundings, fostering inspiration for her ongoing artistic pursuits. “Living in a small village really does suit me,” she shared, embracing the quietude and natural splendour surrounding her.

Tutti's influence continues to reverberate through the underground music scene, and she acknowledges the admiration from contemporary artists, albeit with a discerning eye. She recently expressed her disapproval of figures like Kanye West, whose work she views as more self-serving than impactful. “In my opinion, it’s dangerous and cruel,” she asserted, indicating a clear distinction between her own work, which aimed to provoke discussion, and a modern prevalence that often seeks simply to attract attention without substance.

As Tutti gears up for the release of her upcoming album, "2t2," scheduled for 13 June 2025, she reflects on the personal motifs within her music. This album represents a culmination of life experiences and artistic evolution, blending rhythmic vitality with moments of contemplative stillness. “It addresses personal bereavements and world events, centring on my strength and self-will,” she explained, underscoring her continued dedication to authenticity in her art.

Cosey Fanni Tutti stands as a testament to the enduring power of art that confronts and challenges, embodying a legacy that prioritises sincerity over saleability. Despite the evolved landscape of art, she remains committed to her vision, firmly believing that, even in a commodified reality, the essence of true artistry lies in its capacity for honesty and self-expression.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/may/29/throbbing-gristle-cosey-fanni-tutti-on-radical-art-gardening-and-kneecap-power-and-strength), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/may/29/throbbing-gristle-cosey-fanni-tutti-on-radical-art-gardening-and-kneecap-power-and-strength)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/may/29/throbbing-gristle-cosey-fanni-tutti-on-radical-art-gardening-and-kneecap-power-and-strength), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/may/29/throbbing-gristle-cosey-fanni-tutti-on-radical-art-gardening-and-kneecap-power-and-strength), [[7]](https://www.interviewmagazine.com/music/cosey-fanni-tutti-reflects-on-five-decades-exploring-the-taboos-of-western-society-throbbing-gristle)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/may/29/throbbing-gristle-cosey-fanni-tutti-on-radical-art-gardening-and-kneecap-power-and-strength), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/music/2025/may/09/post-your-questions-for-cosey-fanni-tutti-throbbing-gristle), [[4]](https://www.dazeddigital.com/film-tv/article/47750/1/cosey-fanni-tutti-biopic-on-the-way-throbbing-gristle-andrew-hulme-art-sex-music)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/may/29/throbbing-gristle-cosey-fanni-tutti-on-radical-art-gardening-and-kneecap-power-and-strength), [[5]](https://www.coldwarnightlife.com/2025/03/25/cosey-previews-new-album-2t2/), [[6]](https://www.forcedexposure.com/Artists/TUTTI.COSEY.FANNI.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/may/29/throbbing-gristle-cosey-fanni-tutti-on-radical-art-gardening-and-kneecap-power-and-strength), [[6]](https://www.forcedexposure.com/Artists/TUTTI.COSEY.FANNI.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/may/29/throbbing-gristle-cosey-fanni-tutti-on-radical-art-gardening-and-kneecap-power-and-strength> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/may/29/throbbing-gristle-cosey-fanni-tutti-on-radical-art-gardening-and-kneecap-power-and-strength> - In this interview, Cosey Fanni Tutti, a founding member of Throbbing Gristle, discusses the evolution of art from the 1970s to the present, expressing concerns that art has become more commodified over time. She reflects on the challenges of maintaining artistic integrity in today's economic climate and highlights the authenticity and power of contemporary artists like Kneecap, whose work she finds both uncomfortable and impactful. Tutti also shares personal insights into her life, including her experiences with gardening and the influence of her environment in Norfolk on her art.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/music/2025/may/09/post-your-questions-for-cosey-fanni-tutti-throbbing-gristle> - The Guardian invites readers to submit questions for Cosey Fanni Tutti, the renowned musician and writer from Throbbing Gristle and Chris & Cosey, as she prepares to release her new album, '2t2'. The article provides a brief overview of Tutti's influential career, including her role in the avant-garde group COUM Transmissions and the controversial 'Prostitution' exhibition in 1976. It also touches upon her work with Throbbing Gristle and Chris & Cosey, highlighting her impact on industrial music and performance art.
4. <https://www.dazeddigital.com/film-tv/article/47750/1/cosey-fanni-tutti-biopic-on-the-way-throbbing-gristle-andrew-hulme-art-sex-music> - A biopic based on Cosey Fanni Tutti's life is in development, directed by Andrew Hulme. The film is set to be loosely based on Tutti's 2017 autobiography, 'Art Sex Music', and aims to depict her controversial acts as a member of COUM Transmissions and Throbbing Gristle. Producer Christine Alderson mentions that the script has been in development for two years, with casting underway. The project has received funding from the British Film Institute (BFI).
5. <https://www.coldwarnightlife.com/2025/03/25/cosey-previews-new-album-2t2/> - Cosey Fanni Tutti has announced her new album, '2t2', set for release on 13 June 2025 via Conspiracy International. The nine-track album moves between propulsive beat constructions and expansive electronic explorations, continuing themes from her 2019 album 'TUTTI'. It is described as a personal reflection, drawing on her inner resolve and expressing it through music. The album addresses personal bereavements and world events, centering on her strength and self-will, with two distinct sides—one rhythmic and one meditative—connected by an overwhelmingly positive mood.
6. <https://www.forcedexposure.com/Artists/TUTTI.COSEY.FANNI.html> - Forced Exposure provides information on Cosey Fanni Tutti's upcoming album, '2t2', scheduled for release on 13 June 2025. The nine-track album, composed, performed, and produced by Tutti, moves between propulsive beat constructions and expansive electronic explorations, continuing themes from her 2019 album 'TUTTI'. It is described as a personal reflection, drawing on her inner resolve and expressing it through music. The album addresses personal bereavements and world events, centering on her strength and self-will, with two distinct parts—one rhythmic and one more meditative—connected by an overwhelmingly positive mood.
7. <https://www.interviewmagazine.com/music/cosey-fanni-tutti-reflects-on-five-decades-exploring-the-taboos-of-western-society-throbbing-gristle> - In this interview, Cosey Fanni Tutti reflects on her five-decade career exploring societal taboos through her work with Throbbing Gristle and other projects. She discusses the use of provocative symbols in their art, aiming to draw attention to hidden truths and address issues that are often ignored. Tutti emphasizes the importance of confronting uncomfortable topics to prevent history from repeating itself and highlights the power of collective creativity in presenting alternative perspectives on life.