

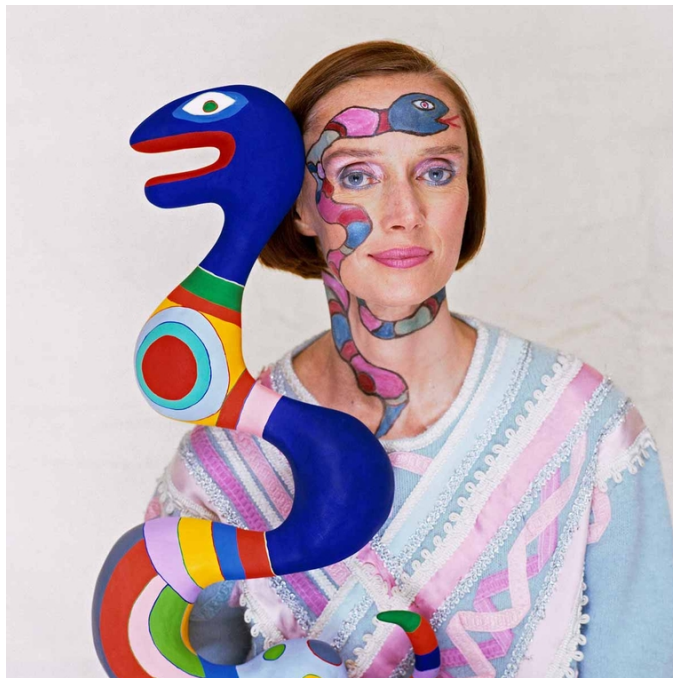
Art World (<https://news.artnet.com/art-world>)

Attention Hollywood! Here Are 10 Historical Artists With Lives So Spellbindingly Dramatic They Need Their Own Biopics Right Away

We've even got recommendations for which big-name actors can play each part.

Katie White (<https://news.artnet.com/about/katie-white-1066>), June 6, 2019

2. Niki de Saint Phalle



Niki de Saint Phalle (1930–2002), photographed with one of her sculptures. Photo: Courtesy of the Norman Parkinson gallery.

This movie would have at least one perfect setting: Saint Phalle's immersive *Tarot Garden*, a fantastical, colorful, tarot-inspired sculpture park in Tuscany. But while Saint Phalle is famed for her expressive, jubilant artworks, the largely self-taught artist lived through some dark times.

Born in 1930 into a deeply conservative Catholic family, Saint Phalle was routinely emotionally and sexually abused by her father during her childhood, an experience she wrote about later in life. Married at just 19, she had two children in her early 20s, and at 23, she suffered a nervous breakdown and was treated with electroshock therapy.

But Saint Phalle proved resilient. By her late twenties, her evocative assemblages, made by firing a rifle at balloons filled with paint, started to gain attention. These works, and her later more joyful sculptures of animals, women, and mythical creatures, embodied her lifelong feminist spirit.

And (in a Hollywood happy ending) her personal life found harmony as well: she became a frequent collaborator with other artists, but particularly [Jean Tinguely](http://www.artnet.com/artists/jean-tinguely/) (<http://www.artnet.com/artists/jean-tinguely/>), the Swiss kinetic artist who would become her second husband.

We'd Cast: Audrey Tautou or Julie Delpy