

Shirin Kavin (- Winiger, * 1984) is a self-taught artist based in Zurich.

Her background is diversified. She came from dance to body piercer at a young age and later via make-up artistry to photography. It was her constant fascination for the human being, her interest in anatomical and psychological structures that drove her; in search for the raw aesthetics of nature – like the beauty of a newborn baby, right after birth, before the first wash – which she finds deeply touching.

“It is the soul becoming flesh – and vice versa.”

With an exceedingly sensitive and equally uncompromising imagery, the artist constantly devotes herself to examining human existence while experimenting with photography, sculptural objects, video, painting and installations.

She is also a loving mother of two sons.

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Vita (good luck)

1984 born in Zurich

2001 Vorkurs (orientation year) at the University of Arts Zurich (ZHdK)

2002 teacher for oriental dance (previous training by Marlies Kataya and Khaled Seif)

2002 apprenticeship as a body-piercer, works in the field until 2007 (Rue de framboise Zürich)

2003 technical school for cosmetics and nail design (Maria Schweizer Zürich)

2003 – 2007 works as a makeup artist in theatre- fashion- and film projects in Zurich, London and Berlin

2007 – 2010 lives and works in Berlin

2007 technical school for Make-up artists, focus on film and special effects (Visamask Berlin)

2007 starts with photography

2008 – 2010 realises numerous press-photos for DJ's in Berlin

2010 – 2013 lives and works in Zurich

2012 transformation, reorganisation and management of a municipal restaurant and involvement in the new conception of the cultural centre (Karl der Große Zürich)

2014 – 2019 lives and works in Vienna

2014 birth of first son / 2017 birth of second son

2019 till today lives and works as a freelance artist in Zurich

Selected Exhibitions

2021

Photoschweiz, Showcase (Wildcard), Halle 550, Zürich (CH)

2017

Räume der Gegenwart, Videoscreening, Kinopavillon, Künstlerhaus Salzburg (A)

2016

Virginité Purity Innocence Youth, Solo Exhibition, Herr Leutner, Vienna (A)

PhotoVienna, Showcase, Museum für angewandte Kunst (MAK), Vienna (A)

Kunstschaffen Walk of Art, Beamboard Naschmarkt/Längenfeldg., Vienna (A)

Art Walk im MQ, Group Exhibition, Museumsquartier Ovalhalle, Vienna (A)

2015

Ready, Media Art Culture Festival, Group Exhibition, Schmiede, Hallein (A)

ltd Exposition, Group Exhibition, Galerie Kiosk Tabak, Zürich (CH)

2013

Humans, Group Exhibition, Künstlerhaus Klagenfurt (A)

Humans, Group Exhibition, Galerie Prisma, Bozen (I)

2010

Duprass, Group Exhibition, Kunstraum Pro Arte, Hallein (A)

Panama Plus, Group Exhibition, Festival, Ampere Muffatwerk, München (DE)

Books/Catalogues

2023 a love letter, Shirin Kavin 2022 - 2023, self-published Newspaper

2021 Lucky Socks, a personal diary, self-published Book

2020 Selected Works, Shirin Kavin 2018 - 2020, Catalogue

2016 Virginité Purity Innocence Youth, Shirin Kavin 2015 - 2016, Catalogue

2013 Humans, Kunstverein Kärnten, Exhibition-Catalogue, ISBN 978-3-200-03055-8

2013 i saw the sun. she kissed the moon. Shirin Kavin 2010 - 2013, self-published Book

2011 Père&Mère, 155 épreuves d'artistes, la Martinière, Artbook, ISBN 978-2-7324-4917-3

Magazines featuring my work

2018 Shots Magazine, No.139, Spring Issue, Print Photomagazine, Saint Paul (MN)

2017 wotisart? Magazine, Issue 9, Artzine, London (UK)

2017 Inland, Issue 2, Artzine, London (UK)

2016 Forge. Art Magazine, Issue 12/Patience, Artmagazine, New York (NY)

2016 Art Reveal Magazine, Issue 18, Artmagazine, London ISBN 9781367386563 (UK)

2011 Le Pater et La Mater, Libération Le Mag, Newspaper -Cover, Paris (FR)

2010 Doze Mag, Junkland, Artmagazine, Madrid (E)

2009 Der Greif / Poster Edition, Photomagazine, Berlin (DE)

2008 Caldo de Cultivo, Me, Myself and i 2.0, Artmagazine, Bogotá (COL)