

Artist statement

Shirin Jafarizadeh

My work exists within a world that feels both familiar and unsettling—a Kafkaesque space where humanity is stripped of connection, dehumanized and isolated. Through different art formats such as photography, alternative processes, art installation and screen prints, I explore themes of alienation, psychological turmoil, and the ways our perception of reality is shaped by our personal experience.

I am drawn to subjects that evoke abandonment and displacement, capturing the experience of being estranged not only from one's surroundings but also from oneself. Self-exploration and self-reflection play a significant role in my practice. Inspired by Expressionism, I manipulate my self-portraits using subjective colors and distorted shapes to explore inner states of mind and emotional truth.

With a background in film, my artistic vision and compositions are strongly shaped by cinema. Literature is also a key influence in forming the concepts of my works, with inspirations mainly from Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*, Camus' *The Stranger*, and the existential themes in Dostoevsky's novels. These inspirations drive my exploration and understanding of alienation, identity, and the fragile nature of reality. My work invites viewers into a world where the boundaries between reality and illusion blur, confronting them with the raw, often unsettling nature of the human experience.