

Hiroko Shiina



Hiroko Shiina's oeuvre could be best introduced by her intricate, surreal compositions, drawn against elegant black velvet backgrounds and endowed with symbolic imagery. Captivating and enigmatic, her art reflects profound themes of eros in the context of allure of fatal romance.

Shiina often incorporates the iconography of Vanitas and Memento Mori, artistic traditions that serve as reminders of the inevitability of death and the fragility of earthly pleasures. Her landscapes are populated with rapacious flame-like flowers, thorns, skulls, skeletons and fetuses. They evoke a subtle elegiac atmosphere inviting us to contemplate and admire the transience and melancholy of romantic relationships.

She constructs a self-enclosed realm of refined poetics, saturated with amorous passion of frigid solitude with enticing sexual personae suspended as if in masochistic restraint. The artist delves into the infinity of her feelings, attempting to encompass the inconceivable nature of deeds and emotions.

Hiroko opens a mysterious parallel reality—a Black Box—where the boundaries between the real world, memory, and dream blur. Shiina's images seem weightless, with hair flowing without wind and sounds sinking into the black velvet. We can almost hear the growth of grass, the pulsating heart of the fetus, the sound of bones turning into landscapes surrounded by the violent ecstasy of nature. She twists and bends reality, guiding viewers through the wildest excesses of her fantasy, imbued with ardor for minutiae and intricacies. Delicately depicted numerous details leading our eyes over the fleeting beauty of each moment.

Shiina's art not only captivates with its aesthetic allure but also provokes thoughtful introspection, encouraging a deeper contemplation of life's transient beauty and the bittersweet poignancy of romantic fatalism.

Hiroko Shiina's style was influenced by different artistic traditions among them Japanese prints of the “Floating world” and 8th-century Kusozu paintings, known for their precision in depicting even the smallest elements. Inspired by them Shiina's work showcases an extraordinary attention to detail.

Each element is meticulously crafted, that contributes to a sense of reality within the unreal. For example, rendering and the motif of long, flowing female hair, which conveys smoothness, fluidity, and continuity, symbolizing growth and transformation.

Shiina's drawing style is reminiscent of Byzantine mosaic techniques, where colors are applied in separate, distinct cells. She prefers a subdued color palette, creating monochromatic images where volume is conveyed through coffee stains, and chiaroscuro is nearly absent, enhancing the graphic quality of the drawings. The coffee stains enhance the sense of impermanence and melancholy, acting as a patina that lends beauty and conveys an atmosphere of solitude and loneliness. It also lends her compositions a ghostly quality that is breathtaking and easily recognizable.

Her work resonates with the Symbolist artists, such as Aubrey Beardsley, who were influenced by similar sources and created elegant graphic puzzles requiring careful analysis and a keen eye for hidden meanings. Shiina's art, rich with symbolic imagery and meticulous attention to detail, invites viewers to engage deeply with her intricate visual narratives.

The interplay of all enthralling elements results in a unique visual experience that reflects the complexity and nuance of her artistic vision. By blending traditional influences with her distinctive techniques, Shiina creates artworks that are both timeless and deeply personal.

The artist continues to refine her technique while courageously exploring her inner self and sensuality. While at first glance they look grotesque, when addressed closer her works are surprisingly evocative in their desire to liberate the spirit and surpass everyday fears by externalizing her passions. Hiroko tries to embrace the full spectrum of human experience, inviting viewers to reconsider and overcome their own limitations in perceiving the world and themselves.

Born in Ibaraki Prefecture in 1984.

Graduated from Tokyo Designer Gakuin College.

Solo Exhibitions

2023

【Under my skin】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan 【PAREIDOLIA MONOMANIA in NewYork】 Haven Gallery / Northport, NY, USA

2022

【PAREIDOLIA MONOMANIA】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

2019

【KISHI-MU -the crack-】 Gallery Hydrangea / Hikifune, Tokyo, Japan 【UNCONSCIOUS STRUCTURE】 Bar foxy / Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan

2014

【MUEN to HENSHITU】 Bar Vanilla Mania / Ginza, Tokyo, Japan

2012

【ONNA no WARUI YUME】 Bar Vanilla Mania / Ginza, Tokyo, Japan

2011 【YUME-GOKOCHI】 AAA Gallery / Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan

Group Exhibitions

2011-2020

【BOKU no MIRU YUME】 with Hirata Yodom, The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

Japan

2024

【ACT small works show】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

2023

【ACT small works show】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan 【MUGEN-MU】 Gallery Hydrangea / Hikifune, Tokyo, Japan

2022

【ACT small works show】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

【ACT 15th anniversary exhibition】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

2021

【new year exhibition】 -The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan 【ACT small works show】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan 【small works show "Little Big"】 Haven Gallery / Northport, NY, USA

2020

【new year exhibition】 -The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan 【ACT small works show】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan 【KUROKU KASUMU TOKI】 Gallery Hydrangea / Hikifune, Tokyo, Japan

2019

【June Exhibition】 Bar foxy / Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan

【Come Undone】 curated by Kylie Dexter, beinart gallery / Brunswick, AUS

2018

【ACT small works show】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

2017

【ACT small works show】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

【ACT 10th anniversary exhibition】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

【Xmas ACT Artist Exhibition】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

2016

【you & me】 Mireya Gallery / Ginza, Tokyo, Japan

【ACT small works show】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan 【Xmas ACT Artist Exhibition】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

2015

【Extra Quality】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

【DYSTOPIA】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

【ACT small works show】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

【FUKA UMI KAERI -full karmic query-】 with Hirata Yodom, Vanilla Gallery / Ginza, Tokyo, Japan

【Condensed Vanilla】 Vanilla Gallery / Ginza, Tokyo, Japan

【Xmas ACT Artist Exhibition】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

2014

【ACT Artists size10】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

【ACT small works show】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

【ACT+ISM】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

【KAI】 GalleryG2 / Ginza, Tokyo, Japan

【ACT ARTIST】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

【December exhibition】 Gallery G-77 / Nakanocho, Kyoto, Japan

【Xmas ACT Artist Exhibition】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

【GalleryG2 Artists】 GalleryG2 / Ginza, Tokyo, Japan

2013

【LINE】 curated by Jinen Gallery, The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

【ACT charity small works show】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

【KYOUKI RANBU】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

【KYOUKI RANBU 2】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan 【KAI】

GalleryG2 / Ginza, Tokyo, Japan

【CORE】 SPACE WOMb / New York, NY, USA

【CORE Triumphal exhibition】 GalleryG2 / Ginza, Tokyo, Japan

【Wonder Halloween】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

【Xmas ACT ARTIST EXHIBITION】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

2012

【Fountain art fair 2012 Triumphal exhibition】 GalleryG2 / Ginza, Tokyo, Japan 【Korean exhibition】 curated by Gallery G2, EW Gallery / gangnam, Seoul, South Korea 【SWAB ART FAIR 2012 Triumphal exhibition】 GalleryG2 / Ginza, Tokyo, Japan 【KAI】 GalleryG2 / Ginza, Tokyo, Japan

2011

【AAA Gallery first exhibition】 AAA Gallery / Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan 【AAA quest exhibition】 AAA Gallery / Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan

2009

【Cheerful Sichuan Exhibition】 Sim's Cozy Garden Hostel / Chengdu, Sichuan, China 【summer garden】 GalleryG2 / Ginza, Tokyo, Japan

Artfair

2023

【Seattle Art Fair】 Seattle, WA, USA

【Art on Paper NY】 NYC, NY, USA

【Affordable art fair Battersea】 Battersea, London, U.K.

2022

【Seattle Art Fair】 Seattle, WA, USA 【Art on Paper NY】 NYC, NY, USA 【CONTEXT art Miami】

Miami, FL, USA

2021

【LONDON ART FAIR 2021】 Islington, London

2020

【Art on Paper NY】 NYC, NY, USA

2019

【SCOPE NY 2019】 NYC, NY, USA 【CONTEXT art Miami 2019】 Miami, FL, USA

2018

【If,So What?】 San Francisco, CA, USA

【SCOPE BASEL】 Basel, Switzerland

【Affordable art fair Battersea】 Battersea, London, U.K. 【CONTEXT art Miami 2018】 Miami, FL,

USA

2017

【SCOPE NY 2017】 NYC, NY, USA

【SCOPE BASEL】 Basel, Switzerland

【Affordable art fair Battersea】 Battersea, London, U.K. 【CONTEXT art Miami 2017】 Miami, FL,

USA

2016

【CONTEXT New York 2016】 NYC, NY, USA

【SCOPE BASEL 2016】 Basel,Switzerland

【Affordable art fair Hempstead】 Hempstead, London, UK 【Affordable art fair Battersea】

Battersea, London, U.K. 【CONTEXT art Miami 2016】 Miami, FL, USA

2015

【SCOPE NY 2015】 NYC, NY, USA

【Affordable art fair Hampstead】 Hampstead, London, U.K.

【SCOPE BASEL】 Basel,Switzerland

【ACTARTCOM】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjyuku, Tokyo, Japan 【ArtHamptons】

Bridgehampton, NY, USA

【Affordable art fair Battersea】 Battersea, London, U.K.

【SCOPE MIAMI BEACH 2015】 Miami, FL, USA

2014

【LA ART SHOW 2014】 LA, CA, USA

【SCOPE NY 2014】 NYC, NY, USA

【SCOPE BASEL】 Basel, Switzerland

【ACTARTCOM】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjyuku, Tokyo, Japan 【SCOPE MIAMI

BEACH 2014】 Miami, FL, USA

2013

【SCOPE NY】 NYC, NY, USA

【SCOPE BASEL】 Basel, Switzerland

【ACT ART COM】 The Artcomplex Center of Tokyo / Shinjyuku, Tokyo, Japan 【RED DOT ART FAIR MIAMI 2013】 Miami, FL, USA

【SCOPE MIAMI BEACH 2013】 Miami, FL, USA

2012

【Fountain art fair 2012】 NYC, NY, USA

【SWAB ARTFAIR】 Fira Montjuic, Barcelona, SPAIN 【Affordable art fair】 Roma, ITALY

【Daegu art fair】 Daegu, South Korea

Collections

HVCCA(Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art) Peekskill, NY, USA