

# DASHA PEARS

## BIO

Dasha Pears is an award-winning artist, currently based in Helsinki, Finland. Dasha's uncanny laconic art pieces are focused on self-discovery and our inner worlds. Aesthetically clean and pleasing artworks are like doors to a surreal universe where any psychological state becomes beautiful.

Dasha uses the instruments of surrealism, minimalism, color, photography, and digital manipulation to tell surprising visual stories with a twist. In her stories, she speaks about deepest psychological matters, bringing things that are usually considered unpretty to light, making them shine with different colors and aesthetically appealing. This way Dasha's art gives viewers a chance to be at peace with themselves, providing an almost physically soothing effect on the human psyche.

Dasha started on her artistic path in 2010. Since then her images have been exhibited numerous times in countries like Russia, France, Austria, Italy, Spain, Poland, Finland, and Israel. Dasha's works are acclaimed by over 10 prestigious art and photography competitions, among them, is the Smithsonian Magazine Award and a gold medal from the Photographic Society of America. Today her art pieces are in over 100 private collections worldwide, including those in London, Paris, New York, Los Angeles, Austin, Tel-Aviv, etc. Dasha's creations are owned by expert art lovers working for Sotbey's, Harvard Art Museum, and Obama Foundation.



## PSYCHOREALISM

Dasha calls the style of her art "psychorealism".

She says: "My works show the reality of what's going on in people's psyche, their very real inner world. I bring whatever happens there into our world and make the unseen visible. I aestheticize emotional states and hope that some difficult emotions become a bit easier to accept and live with for anyone who interacts with my art in any way, be it on a wall or a device screen."

# INFLUENCES

Dasha's art is influenced by classical painting, post-impressionism, surrealism, as well as contemporary and modern visual art. Book illustrations and fantasy and science fiction novels informed and inspired Dasha's early work, currently she gravitates to present day innovative sculpture as an inspiration source. At the same time, she constantly sources inspiration from scientific works on psychology and neuroscience. Yet another powerful influence is the tranquility and calmness of Scandinavian nature and simplistic way of living. The minimalist notes in Dasha's art come rather from the philosophy of minimalism in life and her personal urge to create "organized" and "controlled" pieces, than take roots in the artistic movement of minimalism. This is her way of expressing that controlling your mind and creating mind space is crucial for discovering who you are and who you are not.

## CREATIVE PROCESS



Each photo takes from 1 week to several months of planning and preparations: thinking through the story and the plot, planning the color scheme, sketching, scouting for locations, creating the props, choosing the suitable wardrobe, looking for the right makeup and hairstyle looks and then blending it all together. In some cases, a whole team is involved in the shooting process.

I never use stock imagery to create my art, I shoot all the details myself right there on location, so when everything is combined in the final piece the artwork looks as realistic as possible, no matter how surreal it might seem at a first glance. I pay close attention to shooting all the details in one and the same light, because the light is the soul of a photograph, even when (or even more so) it is not a mere shot, but a complex composite image.

Digital editing is a big part of the creative process. It is usually done after 2-3 months after the shooting has been completed. This allows me to reevaluate and deepen my initial intentions and ideas. I get into a different setting, when I am completely alone with my thoughts and emotions and away from the distractions and interactions present on location. Now it's only my input and my story. Often the whole initial concept might be changed when I work on an image in Lightroom and Photoshop.

”

*I strive to make my images as believable and realistically convincing as possible so that they produce a deeper impact on my viewers.”*

DASHA PEARS

# EXHIBITIONS

---

- 2023 - Group Exhibition - NordArt23 - Büdelsdorf, Germany
- 2023 - Art Fair Exhibition - San Francisco Art Market Fair, San Francisco, USA
- 2023 - Solo Exhibition - The TINT Gallery, San Francisco, USA
- 2023 - Group Exhibition - Sanctuary - Morris Gallery of Contemporary Art,
- 2023 - Group Exhibition -Square Images - Hartlauer Foto Galerie - Linz, Austria
- 2023 - Group Exhibition - Young and Old - Hartlauer Foto Galerie - Linz, Austria
- 2023 - Group Exhibition - Visions of Sound - loosenArt - Rome, Italy
- 2023 - Group Exhibition - Breath - CICA Museum - Korea
- 2022- Group Exhibition - Provenance in Focus ( NFT ) - Mecenate FineArts - Rome, Italy
- 2022 - Group Exhibition - FEM GARAGE - Highbrow Institute, Vienna, Austria
- 2022 - Solo Exhibition - TINT Gallery, San Francisco, USA
- 2022 - Group Exhibition - Galeria Azotea, Mexico City
- 2022 - Gala Awards - Group Exhibition - Barcelona, Spain
- 2022 - Project Exhibition - HYDE Hotel - Dubai, UAE
- 2021 - Group Exhibition "MELANCHOLIA" - FotoNostrum, The House of Mediterranean Photography - Barcelona, Spain
- 2020 - Project Exhibition "Life of Folds" - Photo Is:Rael - International Photography Festival, Tel-Aviv, Israel
- 2020 - Project Exhibition "Old is the New "New" - ERARTA MUSEUM AND GALLERY OF CONTEMPORARY ART, St. Petersburg, Russia
- 2020 - Selected Works - Galeria G12, Helsinki, Finland
- 2020 - Solo Exhibition "Imagine Music" - Gallery Fast Creative - Helsinki, Finland
- 2019 - Festival Internazionale della Fotografia del Mediterraneo - Mazara del Vallo, Italy
- 2019 - Group Exhibition "ParisPhoto OFF" - Paris, France
- 2019 - Group Exhibition "Ethereal: a Daily Poetry" - Paris, France
- 2018 - Group Exhibition "Prix de la Photographie Paris" - Paris, France
- 2018 - Group Exhibition "Trierenberg Super Circuit" - Linz, Austria
- 2018 - Group Exhibition "Rendez-vous • Image" - Strasbourg, France
- 2017 - Group Exhibition "ART photo 2017. Eurasia" - Orenburg, Russia
- 2017 - Solo Exhibition "Ordinary Magic" - Galeri "Zebra", Karjaa, Finland
- 2017 - Group Exhibition "Trierenberg Super Circuit" - Linz, Austria
- 2016 - Group Exhibition "Energia 2016" - Belchalow, Poland
- 2016 - Group Exhibition "Best of Russia" - Winzavod Art Center, Moscow, Russia

# AWARDS

Luxemburg Art Prize - Certificate of Artistic Achievement  
17th Julia Margaret Cameron Award - Honorable Mention  
ND Awards 2021 - Honorable Mention - Portrait, Fashion, Conceptual Fineart Categories  
Trierenberg Super Circuit 2021 - Gold Medal Winner in "Emotions" special theme  
The Prix de la Photographie, Paris (Px3) 2021 - Honorable Mention  
Fine Art Photography Awards (FAPA) 2021 - Professional Fine Art Photographer of the Year  
Nominee  
Fine Art Photography Awards (FAPA) 2020 - 2nd place winner  
Smithsonian Magazine Photo Contest 2019 - Altered Images, Winner  
ND Awards 2019 - 1st place: Gold Star Award  
IPA int'l photography awards 2019 - Honorable mention  
Fine Art Photography Awards (FAPA) 2018 -Professional Fine Art Photographer of the Year  
Nominee  
IPA int'l photography awards 2018 - Honorable mention  
The Prix de la Photographie, Paris (Px3) 2018 - Bronze Winner  
Best of Russia'15 - Winner

# MEDIA COVERAGE

---

Aesthetica Magazine  
The Colossal  
Shutter Stories - Canon Europe Podcast  
Courrier International - Paris  
Fotomagazin - Germany  
ExpertPhotography - 35 Most Influential Conceptual Portrait Photographers  
Digg.com - Best Photography of the Week  
Petapixel - Great Reads in Photography  
OldSkull  
Behance - Best of Photography  
Nordic Style Magazine  
Fotonostrum Magazine  
Photographize  
Expert Photography  
Soul Powered Podcast  
Hashtag Authentic Podcast  
Click Magazine  
Artmadzine

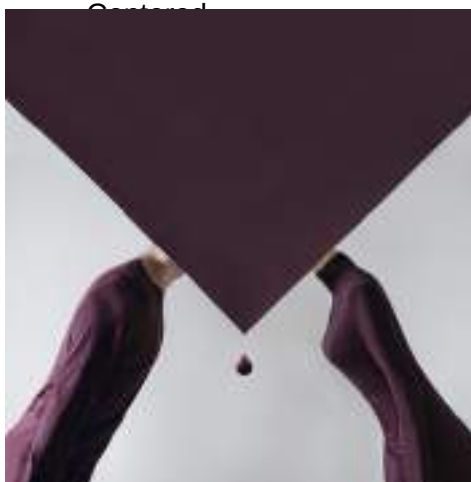
# THE DARK DAYS

"The Dark Days of the Soul" is inspired by the darkness of Finnish winter and the limited ability to physically change places due to the situation in the world. In times like that new opportunities to travel arise. It's a different kind of travel though, it's a journey within.

Each work covers a particular state of mind that I translate into a visual form. Some of them are truly dark, some are bright, but this is how the duality of life works: we wouldn't be able to see light without the darkness.



# THE DARK DAYS OF THE SOUL



# RESISTANCE

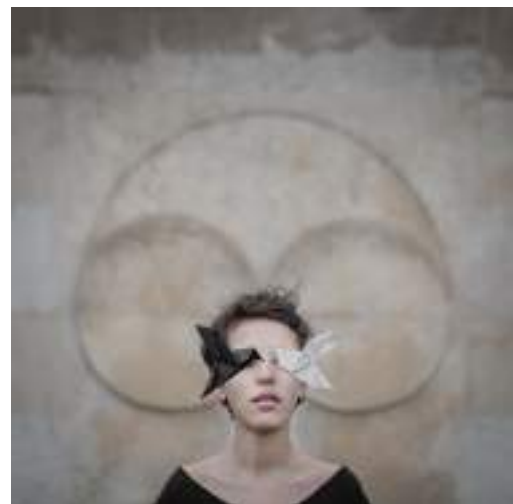
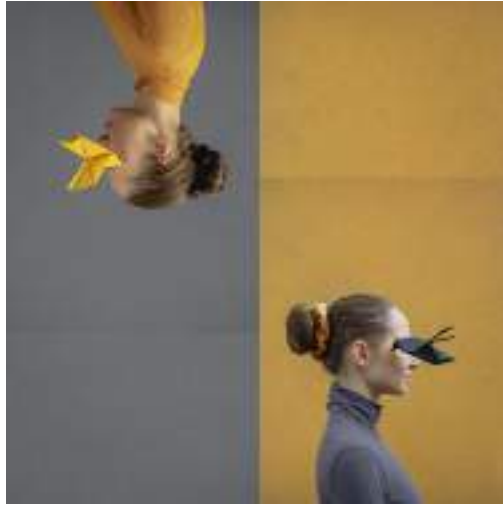
"The more important a call or action to our soul's evolution, the more Resistance we will feel toward pursuing it." - Steven Pressfield "The War of Art"

Newton's 3rd law of physics says: "To every action, there is always opposed an equal reaction". Often we feel this very concrete law of physics in our psychological struggles. Every attempt to grow, to do something new, to learn, and to develop will inevitably face some kind of reaction. Something be it our environment, family, circumstances, but most often our own beliefs and self-talk don't allow us to make our next steps and attempts to block the growth.

This force, this resistance can come in any shape or form: indecision, negative self-talk, procrastination, conflicts, fear, doubt, self-sabotage, shame, guilt. This project attempts to show in a metaphorical way all those types of things that can block our creativity and growth. My hope is that every person, facing the resistance of some kind realizes that, in the end, the resistance it's not real and can be blown away like a piece of paper when you know exactly why you need the growth and why you want to create.



# RESISTANCE





# SYNESTHETIC LETTERS



**Synesthesia** is an extraordinary neurological sensory condition that allows people to experience one of their senses through another. Those who have this condition, synesthetes, may hear, smell, taste, or feel the music in color. Others taste shapes, and still, others perceive written digits, letters, and words in color.

Studies have shown that the phenomenon is biological, automatic, and unlearned. It runs in families and is found in 4% of the world's population. A number of artists, writers, and scientists had synesthesia, among them Vincent Van Gogh, Wassily Kandinski, Vladimir Nabokov, Nicola Tesla, etc. Today celebrities like Lady Gaga, Billie Eilish, Lorde, and Pharrell Williams claim to have some synesthetic sense and that it actually helps them with their creative process.

The most common form of the condition is called "grapheme-color synesthesia", with it people involuntarily experience colors when thinking about letters, numbers, or words. While different individuals usually do not report the same colors for all letters and numbers, studies with large numbers of synesthetes find some commonalities across letters (e.g. A is likely to be red, C - yellow, and O - white).

This type of synesthesia is what the creators of the "Synesthetic Letters" project, Dasha Pears and collaborator stylist Jane Kristoferson have. After having discovered the phenomenon and studying how it functions in various forms the two artists have decided to recreate their experience in a series of uncanny photographs and share it with the world.





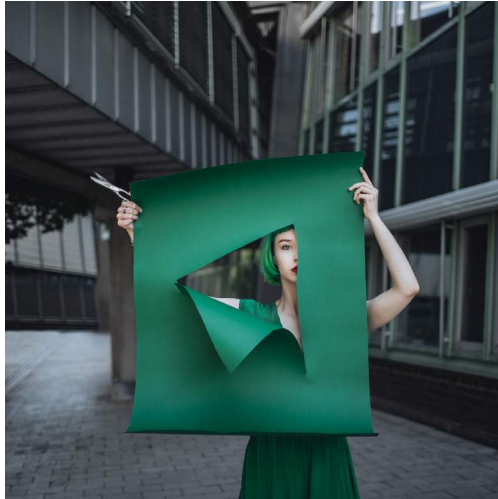
# PAPER CUTS

Every story is made up. All the stories that we hear about the world, the way things work in it and what our place in it is have been made up for us by our parents, school, society.

However, when we realize that everything has been made up, now it's our turn to tell ourselves a new story. And this story can be anything we ever wanted it to be. It won't be easy. But it's possible to forget all the stories that were bringing us down, and create our own, the one that will empower us - from scratch. But to do that, we need to cut the old stories first.



# PAPER CUTS



# SUBTRACTION

Life can be improved by adding, or by subtracting. The world pushes us to add because that benefits them. What if we focus on subtracting instead? First, I subtract everything that I can, and then I add only the most essential elements. The ones that I choose myself and that I feel will add the real value. I unlearn the old things and now my mind has space for the new knowledge. Ultimately there's an infinity of possibilities in limitations. But you need to learn to subtract and make that space first in progress.



# SUBTRACTION



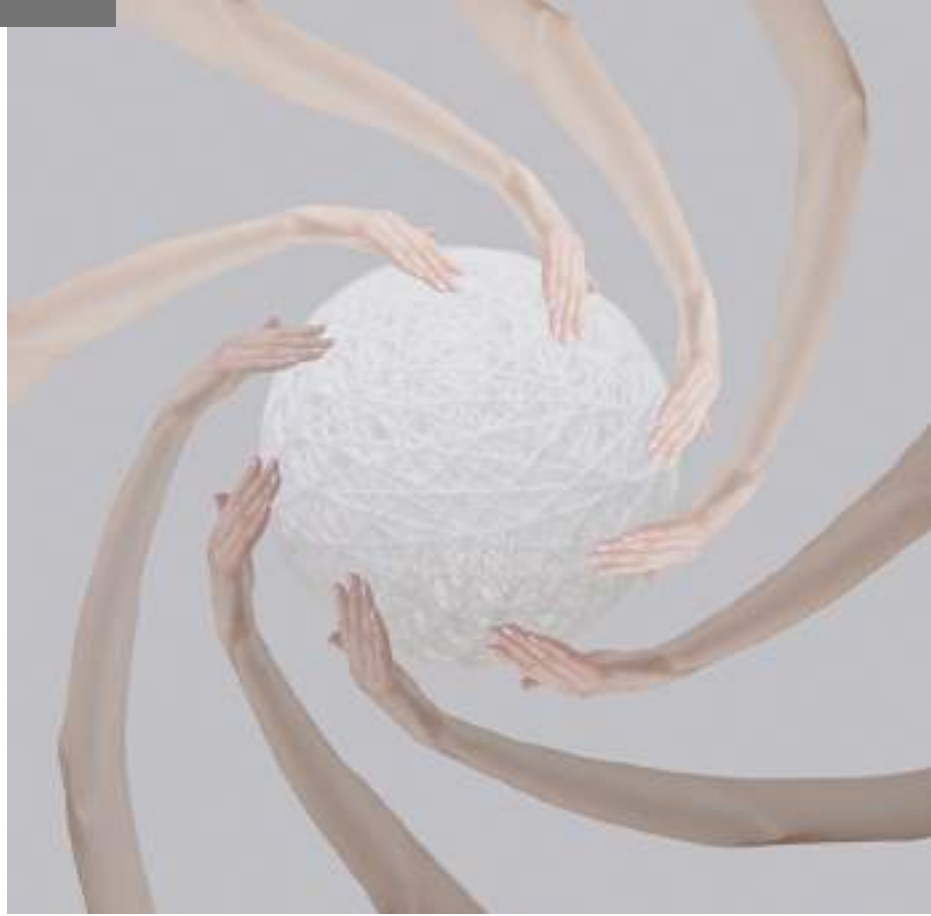
# NATURE

Whatever we usually refer to as “human nature”: the uncontrolled emotions, irrational actions, lack of thinking, is usually the reflection of the animal origin in our brains. We are tiny cells in the giant organism of the Universe. We’re connected to everything around us and to each other. Then why do we often feel so unique, different and isolated? The project is speculation on this controversy.





# NATURE



# RED ON WHITE

Life is raw as all forces of nature and often we suffer from expecting it to be something which it is not. In our minds we create all sorts of rules that life is supposed to follow, construct meanings and strive for some obscure perfection. Life however is an experience, not a thought or idea.

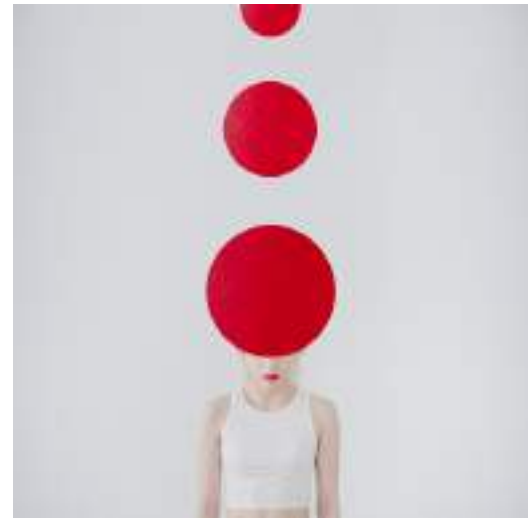
The Red in the pieces is the life itself, between the black and white, it's both angry and loving, cozy warm and burning hot, it's the birth and death. The white is the field and the scene where life occurs.

Inspired by the art and practice of Asian calligraphy this project accumulates the artist's play and study of the state of no-mind or Mushin. Practiced by Zen and Buddhist monks as well as calligraphers and martial artists. This state is referred to as shape without form, direction without direction, action from inaction. Mushin is achieved when a person's mind is free from thoughts and concepts. There is an absence of discursive thought and judgment, so the person is totally free to act and react without hesitation and without disturbance from any thoughts. In state of no-mind you rely only on instinct and intuition. Your actions become raw and unadorned, natural and pure.

This state is never lasting however. We do return to our minds, thinking and building concepts. The pieces included in the project are a product of the free flow of the artist's intuition. The captions and this abstract is the attempts of the artist's mind to reason with it and explain why and what the intuition was referring to.



# RED ON WHITE



# LIFE OF FOLDS



# LIFE OF FOLDS

Origami is the art of turning a plain sheet of paper into practically any shape. The transformation of a piece of paper into virtually anything made me think of how we as humans tend to turn plain facts and life situations into positive or negative ones when we react to them emotionally.

In this series, origamis represent emotions that can sometimes be overwhelming, drive you in some direction, make you act a certain way. You can't fight them. If you try, you will fail. So many of us have unresolved emotions from our childhood that drag us down and turn into miserable human beings. You can only be at peace with yourself when you acknowledge these emotions, observe them, let them be, and pass through you.



# CONTACT



DASHA  
PEARS

 [dashapears-art.com](http://dashapears-art.com)

 +358 408461466

 @dashapears.art

 [dashapears@gmail.com](mailto:dashapears@gmail.com)