

WIDE RAINBOW LESSONS: SHIRIN NESHAT

ARTIST INTRO:

Shirin Neshat (b. 1957) شیرین نشاط is an Iranian artist who lives in New York City. Neshat left Iran as a teenager during the Islamic Revolution in the late 1970s. She studied at UC Berkeley and today is known for work in film, video, and photography as well as her celebrated *“Women of Allah”* series from the 1990s made of photographs and calligraphy. Her artworks explore the past and future, private and the public, her connection to Iranian culture, the western world, gender, politics, and poetry. Neshat is a prolific artist that has received numerous awards, recognition, and continues to make powerful works of art at her studio in Brooklyn.

ARTWORK:



WORKSHOP:

Let's create photo artworks inspired by Shirin Neshat!

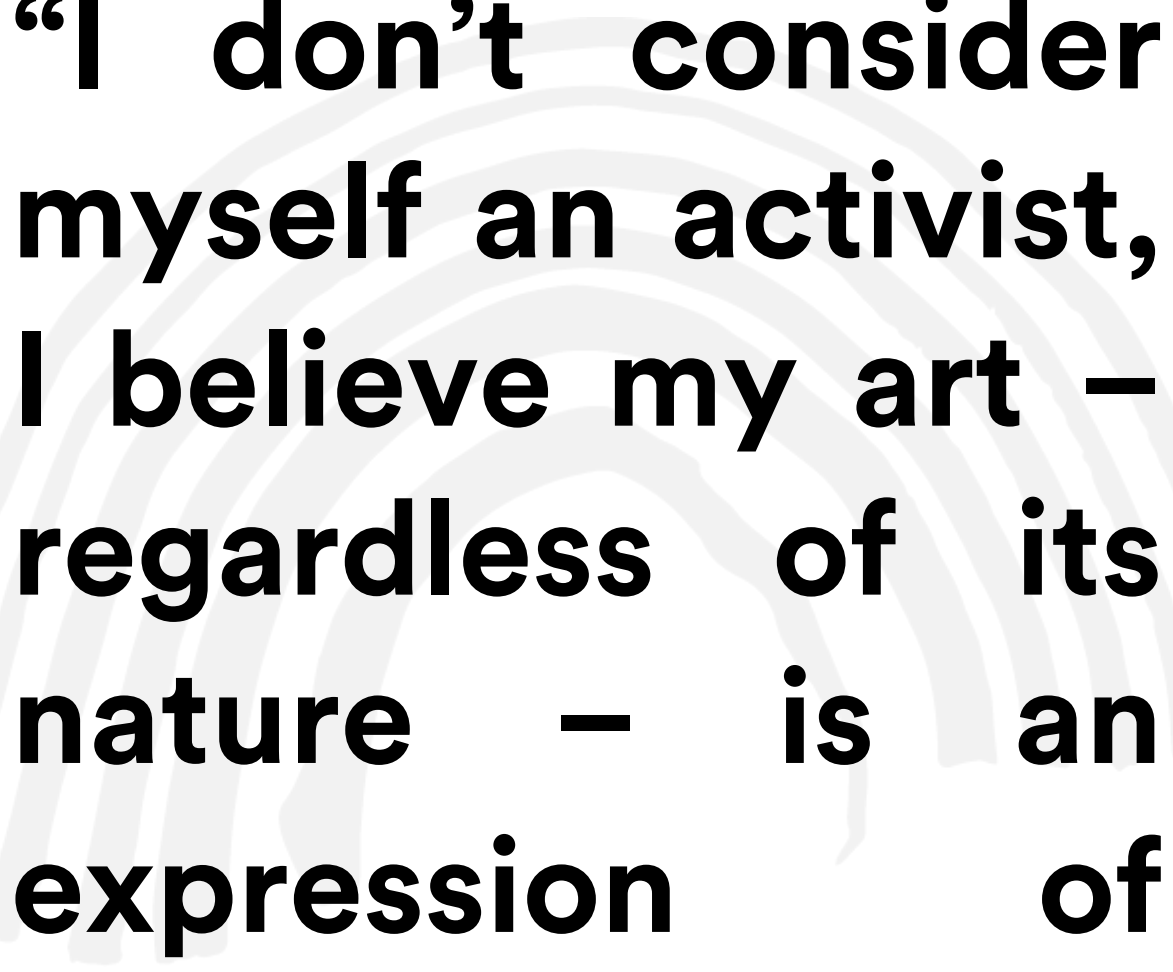
1. Start with a photo of yourself
2. Print that photo out in black and white (an option before you print)
3. The bigger the image the more room to create
4. Think about words that *define* who you are, a favorite song that inspires you, or a poem (you can create your own poem or any text)
5. Practice getting creative with your text on a piece of paper – how can your words move around the page? How can words become art?
6. When you are ready to add that text onto your photo – get creative!
7. When finished, share with friends, fellow students, and family
8. What does your artwork say about you?

MATERIALS:

- Sharpie
 - A photograph or printed image of you
- Optional : An image printed in Black & White*



**Shirin Neshat, I Am Its Secret (Women of Allah),
1993. Photo: Plauto. © Shirin Neshat**



“I don’t consider myself an activist, I believe my art – regardless of its nature – is an expression of protest, a cry for humanity.”

-Shirin Neshat



FOLLOW UP:

What does a photograph of you, mean to you?

What does your photograph mean to the world?

If you could say anything, about 'who you are' what would you say?

What do you represent? What would you like to represent? What does an artwork represent? What does your artwork say about you?

Wide Rainbow is a 501c3 contemporary art after school program.

Providing access to art, artists, and arts education.

www.widerainbow.org