

NIKI DE SAINT PHALLE

SHOOTING LIFE

A WONDERFUL, INTENSE AND PASSIONATE GRAPHIC NOVEL ABOUT THE LIFE, ARTISTIC AND PERSONAL INSTANCES OF ONE OF THE GREATEST ARTISTS OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

The daughter of an American actress and a French banker, Niki lived her youth between the United States and Europe. A citizen of the world and a polyglot, she studied theater and initially posed as a model for the magazines *Vogue* and *Life*.

Following a nervous breakdown, Niki was hospitalized in Nice and found out that painting was for her the best therapy, deciding in that moment to devote herself completely to it.



In the early Sixties she created *Shooting Paintings*: a series of actions during which the public or the artist herself shoots with the rifle on plaster reliefs in which there were bags of paint, exploding at the moment of the impact.

The artist attributed these shots a therapeutic function of revenge above all towards her father, accused by the artist of having attempted to abuse her at the age of eleven.

Since 1965 she has explored the artistic representation of women and created life-size figures. These works have gradually taken consistency, becoming the *Nana*.

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Since her relationship with her first husband had ended years before, Niki divorced him and married Jean Tinguely in 1971. Exceptional and original works resulted from their union, such as the Stravinsky fountain in Paris and the Tarot Garden in Garavicchio.



THE AUTHOR

Monica Foggia is a teacher, author and radio presenter. The lives of women artists and gender issues are particularly present in her work. She published in Italy in 2021 her graphic novel on Christa Wolf, drawn by Martina Marzadori, with whom she also worked on the graphic novel on Camille Claudel to be published in the fall of 2022 by Seuil in France.

THE ILLUSTRATOR

Valeria Quattrocchi is an artist, illustrator and cartoonist born and currently living in Apulia, Italy. Her style is reminiscent of classic French comics, with clear lines and uniform colours, with strong manga incursions and a natural flair for anatomy and female themes.

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