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DITA KUBIN

UNDERNEATH SKIN

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Born 1975, Písek, Czechoslovakia

After her family emigrated to Canada in 1981, Dita Kubin spent her childhood in Vancouver, British Columbia. She later moved to Montreal to pursue a career in the arts, completing a three-year program in Photography at Dawson College. She worked as a freelance photographer and photography teacher until 2004, when she decided to focus on producing and exhibiting fine art photographic works.

Dita's work has been featured on the covers of magazines such as *Photo Life* and *Photo Sélection*, and she has been published in *B&W Magazine*, *Zoom Magazine* (Italy), *Adbusters*, *Photographer's Forum*, and *Lux*. She has exhibited her images internationally.

UNDERNEATH SKIN: INTIMATE EXPLORATIONS OF SELF-IMAGE AND THE RELATIONSHIP TO SELF

I began a conflicted relationship with my body at the age of twelve. For years, instead of facing my confused anxiety head-on, I ran away from it. I became good at finding distractions, sublimating certain feelings, creating counter-arguments and making excuses.

It was not until the age of 32, that I finally realized what I was running from, and how uncomfortable I was in my own skin. After returning home from a trip to the Canary Islands, I reviewed photographs I had casually taken of myself naked. I had an intense negative reaction to these images of fleshy skin and nakedness. It crushed my sense of self. I was devastated. I was ashamed I'd made these photographs. I promised myself no one would ever see them.

It took me several weeks to overcome the profound aversion to my images. Eventually, I was pulled back to them, with a pressing need to confront myself. As a result, the more I looked, the more I saw a woman trying to speak about herself. The images lost their powerful, negative hold over me. I didn't see fleshy skin anymore, I saw a human being. Encouraged by this revelation, I started photographing myself in various environments, exploring and engaging the many ways in which my self-image affects my sense of self.

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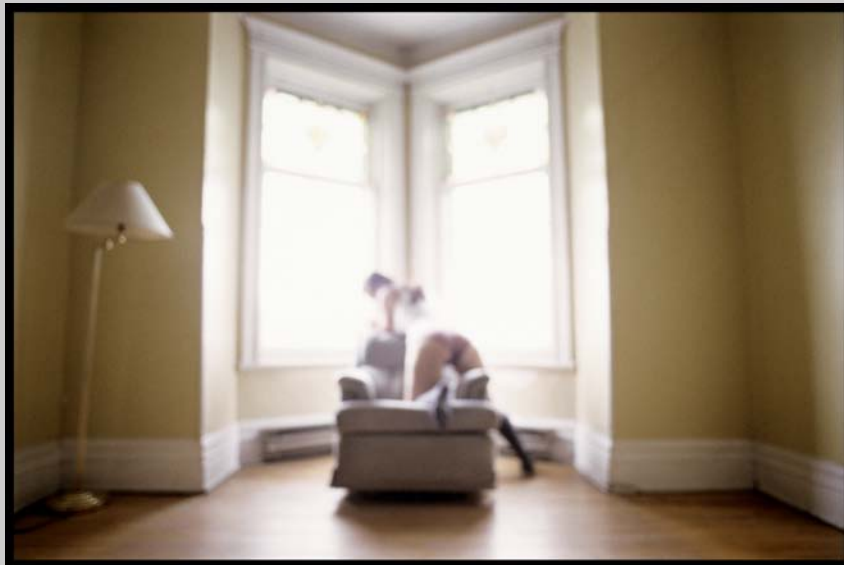
Baby Animal



Dance Of Great Undoings



Distance • Wrong Feeling



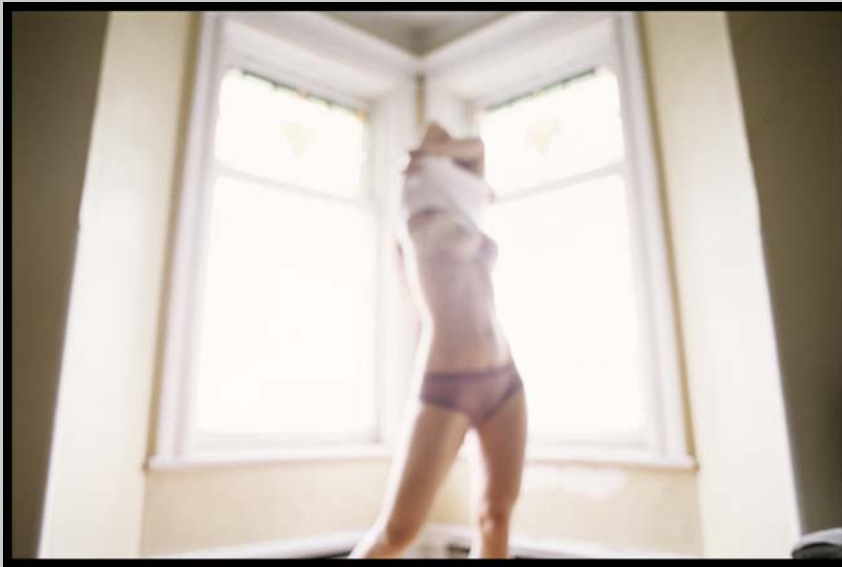
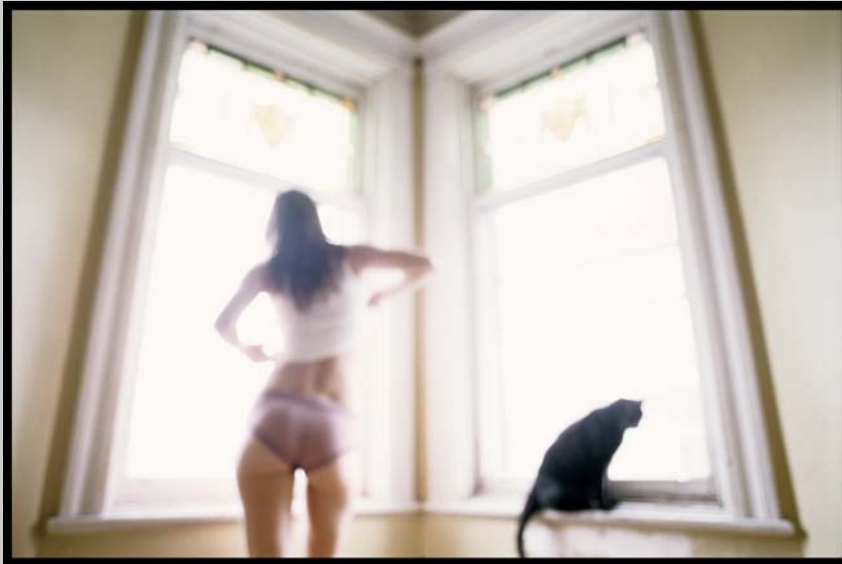
If Then



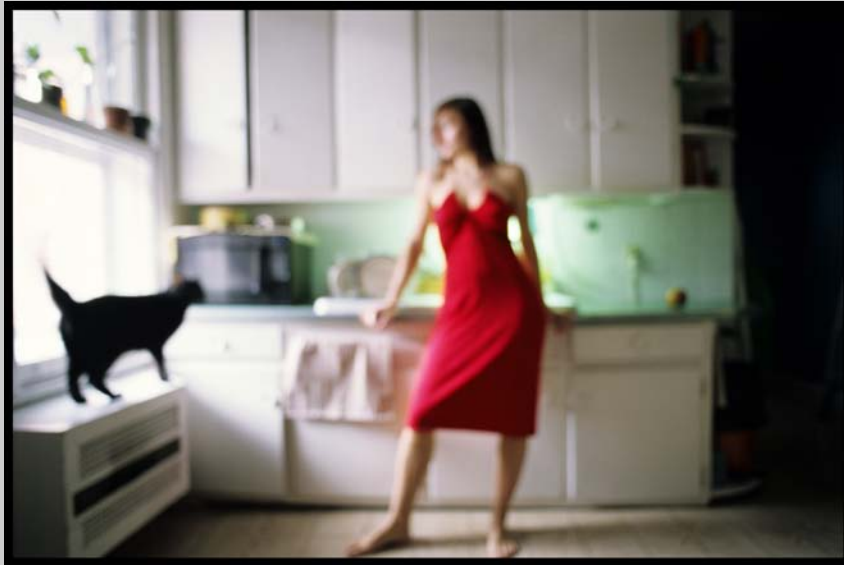
Open • Closed



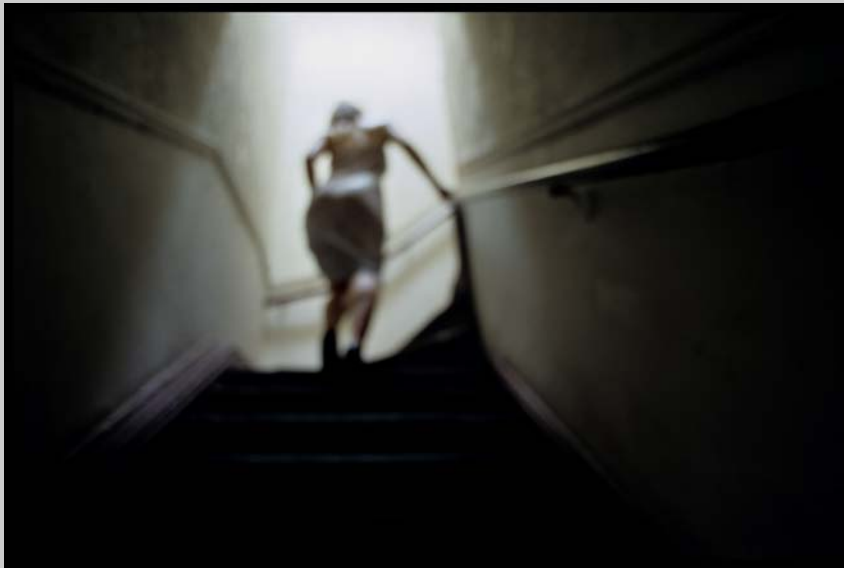
Kitchen Scene



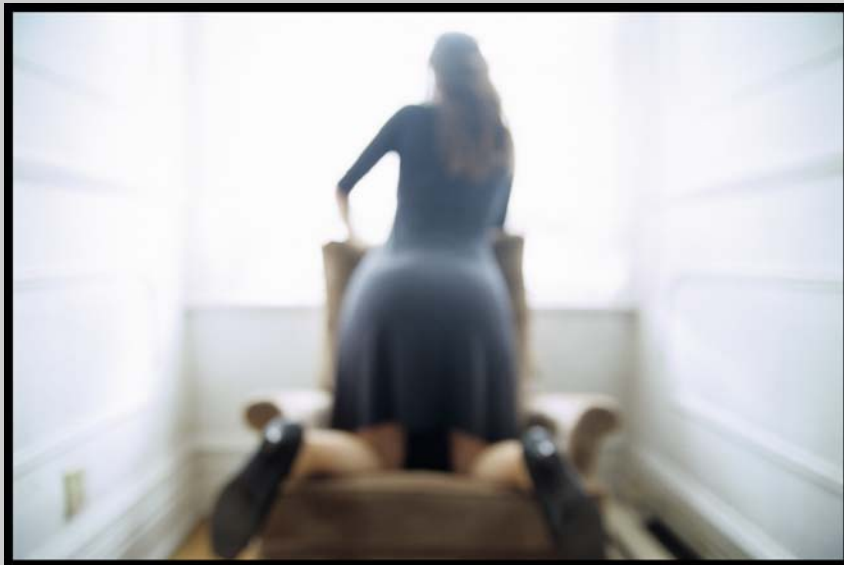
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Red In The Kitchen



Fire • Stairwell



Red Dress • Halo



Pretty Pink Dress



My Babies