

WHEN DREAMS COME TRUE.

By Meinrad Schade (photographs) and
Martina Kamm (texts)

At the centre of *When dreams come true* are dreams and visions. They offer a place of refuge to people who were forced to leave their homes and who have been on the move in the hopes of a better, more peaceful world. Hopes that are often shattered in the harsh reality of everyday life, whether at home or abroad.

Our project aims to give 17 such people a chance to follow their own fantasy visions for once, to set their dreams down on paper and to stage them, in costumes from the Schauspielhaus Zürich. Most of the participants are forced migrants who now live in Switzerland. They are between 21 and 77 years of age and come from such countries as Ukraine, Iran, Afghanistan, Burundi, Turkey, the Kyrgyz Republic, Brazil or Spain. Here, today, the stage belongs to them.

The 17 portraits that make up our exhibit are the work of the photographer Meinrad Schade (www.meinradschade.ch) and the sociologist Martina Kamm (www.face-migration.ch). In long-term projects over the past 15 years and counting, the two creators have focused on the effects of war and forced migration on the everyday lives and surroundings of those affected. Their first joint exhibit, *Living with difficult memories in a safe country* (2007–2011), was produced in collaboration with the Ambulatorium für Folter- und Kriegsopfer (AFK, Ambulatory for victims of torture and war) and shown in Bern and Zurich.

When dreams come true is one of three HORTUS art projects actively involving forced migrants presented by Face Migration, an interdisciplinary platform, between May and September 2024 in Zurich. The exhibit has now been revived and is on view from Sunday, 11 May until Sunday, 6 July 2025 in the Reformierte Kirche Laufen am Rheinfall.

The project's cooperation partner is Schauspielhaus Zürich (www.schauspielhaus.ch), which provided the costumes and stage for the photoshoots and the space for the exhibit. The photos and texts for the dreams were developed in two writing workshops by the author Alice Grünfelder (www.literaturfelder.com) and the journalist Maja Peter (www.majapeter.com).

DETAILS Laufen am Rheinfall

Exhibit in the Reformierte Kirche Laufen am Rheinfall
Sunday, 11 May 2025 – Sunday, 6 July 2025
Vernissage: 11 May at 9.30 am (church service), followed by refreshments
Opening hours of church / exhibit: daily from 8.00 am – 8.00 pm
(www.kircheamrheinfall.ch)

TEAM FACE MIGRATION

General management / project development / texts: Martina Kamm
Project management / photography / staging: Meinrad Schade
Workshop 1, Finding your dream / editing & proofreading: Alice Grünfelder
Workshop 2, Finding your dream: Maja Peter
Graphic design: Dana Pedemonte
Scenography Atelier bpunkt, Bern: Beat Zurflüh
English translation: Rafaël Newman
Photography assistance: Luca Ehbets
Project assistance: Leyla Haab

IN COLLABORATION WITH SCHAUSPIELHAUS ZÜRICH

Costume design: Renée Kraemer and Sophia May
Dressers: Selma Jamal Aldin and Alexandra Kojic
Organisation: Katrin Hohenacker and Barbara Higgs

OUR THANKS

...to the project sponsors, for their generous support, in particular the Canton of Zurich's Fachstelle Integration and the City of Zurich's Sozialdepartement, without whose assistance our HORTUS art project would not have been possible;
...to the Reformierte Kirche Laufen am Rheinfall, in particular to Siegfried Arends and Ernst Roth, for their kind invitation to host our exhibit and for their joint financing;
...to Schauspielhaus Zürich and its employees, for their great commitment and engagement in costuming and organisation;
...to our protagonists, for their faith, their patience and their willingness to embark on this "adventure" with us, to join us in setting their dreams down on paper and putting them on stage;
...to the Citykirche Offener St. Jakob, and in particular to Monika Golling and Ruedi Schwerzenbach, for their committed assistance: they helped us with recruiting and generously provided the space for our workshops;
...and to the Autonome Schule Zürich and Solinetz Zürich and Winterthur as well as to Constanze Schade, for tremendous support with the demanding work of recruitment.

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