



## The Picture of Their Life #4 – Fabian Weiss

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*The picture of their life is our new monthly column that explores the world to meet international photographers. They tell us how a famous picture has changed their way to work.*



**Fabian Weiss, 27, is a German photojournalist who has during the last year made a real breakthrough. His work has been internationally recognized by the Lucie Foundation and the European Publishers Award, only to name a few. He also was recently awarded with the CNN Journalist Award.**

Fabian's passion is documentary storytelling. His projects explore the profound cultural and personal changes, by telling subtle and intimate stories. Fabian likes to raise awareness for less covered issues, daily life and struggles of those living on the margins of society.

Currently Fabian is working on projects in Eastern Europe.

### **Fabian Weiss on Daria Tuminas' photograph:**

"As with most photos, I came across this one sitting in front of my computer, browsing through the internet. It's from a series called *Ivan and the Moon* in which [Daria Tuminas](#) is following two brothers from countryside Russia. She's documenting their playing, the world they live in, and the worlds they imagine.

**Not only this specific photo, but the whole series is special to me.** I felt she managed to get really close and really intimate with the two brothers, the subjects she was following. I can imagine what kind of worlds these brothers were imagining. For me that was why the series was so powerful: it's not only showing what there is in the physical world but also hinting at something that might be going on in their heads. With this photo, maybe just by the gesture or the lighting, **I feel like I can enter this other kind of universe.**



© *Ivan and the Moon* - Daria Tuminas

When I saw this photo, I felt that I, too, wanted to create something that has same characteristics. In my own projects I am focusing on people and their environment, but I also want to show what is behind them, and show it in a quite clever and beautiful way.

**I guess what makes a good picture for me is when you can see that the subject is really relaxed.** What I admire is a photographer that builds a good relationship with his model, instead of just snapping a picture.

I feel there are so many good pictures by unknown photographers, while many people tend to talk in high tones about pictures from famous artists. Famous photographers, of course, have shot some good stories, but maybe get stuck in their way of working. For me, **it's rather inspiring to see pictures by fresh and emerging photographers**, because they have a new way of looking and telling stories.”

You can check all of Fabian's work on his [website](#).

*Fabian's portrait was directed by Pirita Männikkö.*