

CAPTIONS:**« DOWN & OUT »**

Photography by

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Photo 01 –

Chicago district, a forgotten place downtown. Michel is socially excluded, immersed in great solitude. He wanders about before getting his meal and attending his quarters at the Salvation Army that took him in.



Photo 02 –

Local bar. Michel, 32, lost everything and ended up living in the streets after his family rejected him. Alcoholic and ill for several years, he is socially excluded.



Photo 03 –

St Luc Hospital. Although he is hospitalized for a check-up and conscious of how bad his health is, Michel refuses treatment for his cirrhosis of the liver and his pancreatic cancer. He would rather die in the streets than in a hospital.



Photo 04 –

Salvation Army. In exchange of a few hours of work in the kitchen or in the warehouse of the organization and of financing a part of his small salary, Michel can find a place to stay and eat as well as receive used clothes, like the jacket he is wearing.



Photo 05 –

Place St Catherine, Bar Le Capitaine. To kill time and get warm in the winter, Michel has a few drinks in bars he spotted, alone most of the time.



Photo 06 –

The homeless can spend the day at Saint Theresa Orchard. On New Year's Eve, after having danced, sung and laughed, Michel and another homeless start a fight over a girl they were both after. Once he is back the SAMU (city social humanitarian emergency service), Michel will spend the night outside. He was expelled of the shelter as he tried to hit an educator.



Photo 07 –

After spending a night drinking and singing in a karaoke, Michel is drunk, and reality reappears after this brief moment of distraction.



Photo 08 –

Ibis Hotel. Although he doesn't have a place to stay, Michel spends his salary in the first days of the month on an expensive room at a hotel after drinking in the local bars.



Photo 09 –

Marolles district. Bibi and Mimi have 6 children. They were all evicted from their public housing during the winter of 2008 for excessive debt. Evicted from a few shelters, they hosted by the SAMU (city social humanitarian emergency service) of Brussels and because of the lack of decent rooms they are temporarily staying in an unsanitary place that is about to be demolished because.

Bibi used to be a security agent. He found a wallet in front of his temporary home and calls the police.



Photo 10 –

Marolles district. Bibi and Mimi in their transition, unsanitary apartment, lent by the SAMU, enjoy a moment of calmness after they brought their children to school. Bibi just recovered his coffee table and computer that were kept with their other furniture in custody after their eviction.



Photo 11 –

Marolles district. Dinner time for Bibi Mimi and their six children.

In the winter, the SAMU (city social humanitarian emergency service) provides them with a hot meal. After that, they will share slices of bread and butter and canned food to try and make a decent meal.



Photo 12 –

Marolles district. At the end of the wintertime shelter for the homeless program, Bibi and his family are relocated in a public housing after being on the waiting list for a long time and going through many tedious procedures.



Photo 13 –

Marolles district. Although their children's absenteeism rate is important because of the circumstances, they remain the couple's priority.



Photo 14 –

Marolles district. Bibi and his daughter Jade after changing her diaper.



Photo 15 –

Marolles district. In the situation's disorder, in order to survive, one's needs order.



Photo 16 –

Elvis has been a homeless for more than 18 years. Every morning, the first thing he does is roll a cigarette. Time seems to have stopped although he is in the middle of the city. In the streets, the relation to time is different.



Photo 17 –

Wood of La Cambre. Alain and Elvis are homeless. They live together in sickness and in health. They trust each other and share their every day life. Elvis has been a homeless for 18 years. He is Alain's mentor who has been living in the streets for 5 years. This uncared-for pavilion located on a old lot of an embassy protects them and keeps them away from the violence of the city.



Photo 18 –

Elvis was thrown out of a bar because he threatened with a cutter a man (on the foreground), a regular of this place.



Photo 19 –

Showers at the Free University of Brussels. Three to four times a month, Alain and Elvis go take a shower. Alain shaves afterwards while Elvis keeps an eye on their clothes.



Photo 20 –

Showers at the Free University of Brussels. Elvis' shower can lasts two to three hours. Like every other time, he uses up his liquid soap and shampoo containers, half bottle of Cologne. He will give himself a close shave and put on clean clothes. Alain is quicker and waits for him. He is also an alcoholic and suffers of depression.



Photo 21 –

Wood of La Cambre. In this uncared-for pavilion that belongs to an embassy, Alain is awakened by the cold, his body is numb and stiff. The lack of alcohol make his body shake until he drinks a liter of sangria.



Photo 22 –

Wood of La Cambre. Alain and Elvis leave quietly their shelter as the day begins.