

Captions:

PHOTOGRAPHING WORDS

Photographic essay by
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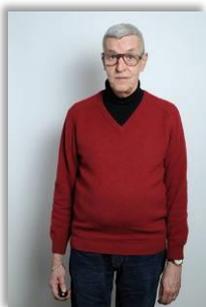
Picture 01- Miguel.



I'm Miguel - I have double nationality - Cap Verdean and Portuguese - I make up songs when I feel like it, when I'm feeling well - When I don't think about writing songs I stay at home to sleep - That way I'm sure not to do something stupid outside - I'd like to compose a song for everyone here at the *Petits frères* - The song is called Joanna Rosa - It is a song about a girl who suffers in life

Ai Jouana Rosa oia
Jouana Rosa oia
Bo vida
Cuegue cuegue
Sardina fresca
Mi un ba pa Lisboa
Adues
Jambai
bis
Mi un ten irmon famillia
Pa tu dou ladou
Bis
Refrain :
Irmon famillia
Pa tu dou ladou

Picture 02- Pierre.



I wonder where Westi is my dog - knowing that he can't be far away - He's 8-and-a-half - I bring him everywhere, we're very close - I'd be lost without my dog, he changed my life - He was already called Westi when I got him - I kept his name- I do everything with him - I was an alcoholic before - I have to go out to walk him even when it rains - My Westi is my life - When I'm feeling down I talk to him and he listens to me - He nods his head like as if he understood me.

Picture 03- Sadok.



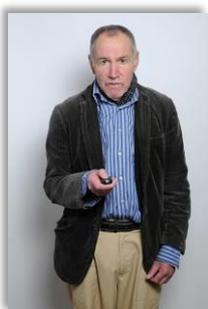
I'm Tunisian - I thought it would be best to take the shot at that moment because I was near the shutter release - I put my photo in the album with the holiday photos - I always go away on holidays with three friends from the *Petits frères* [des pauvres] - I emigrated to France at 18 - I was a cook - All alone in France I started washing dishes - then worked as a kitchen assistant, then as a cook - Nothing more - I don't want to say anything more.

Picture 04- Saïd.



This photo is the first day that I discovered the *Petits frères* [des pauvres] 6 I was happy to have discovered this association - I recognise myself in this photo - It reminds me of my youth - Whenever I look at it I remember when I was young and handsome - I come from Algeria - I was born over there - I lived there for 14 or 15 years - I don't remember when I arrived in France - I'm coming to the end - I feel myself nearing the end soon - I'm well aware that I'm getting old - I can't say that I am old but I am - It's not what you see on the outside that is important - but what is inside - I'm 62.

Picture 05- Salah.



Salah means Mohamed - My father died in the war in Algeria - I was seven - He was a shopkeeper - He had two commercial permits - One Algerian, one French - like everyone - That's all - My mother died when I was 40 - I'm not afraid - I had an operation on my neck, that's why I have a scarf on in the photo - I suppose I'm like everyone else - That's all - I smoked a bit - I don't drink - I've a bad back - I don't want to work in the kitchen anymore - That's all - I'm tired.

Picture 06- André.



61 years old - Born in 1953 in the Congo, in Brazzaville - I'm a tight-rope walker - I make people laugh, I bring many women to the office of the *Petits frères* - So they don't know who is my official girlfriend - When I go to the office they are all delighted - Which girlfriend? - At the moment I'm moving towards retirement - I've roughly 100 trimesters - I had a heart attack in 2001 so I don't work anymore and I'm going to retire - Like everyone I'm waiting for a house, my own apartment - The women, they come to see me during the day but then they have to leave - They can't stay the night in my room - That holds true for everyone, what I'm saying.

Picture 07- Aomar.



This image captures a moment when I was asking myself lots of questions - The pause that represented this photo shoot allowed me to relax - All that time we came, we chatted, we took photos - It was an evasion that came at the right moment - Now there's my job and its content after 18 months out of work - I'm happy to work because I'm active - I can't sit doing nothing and I'd like to work on to get a full pension - 18 more months - I'm 65 - Once I retire I really want to set up an association across three countries - Morocco Mauritania Senegal - which would work to save marine resources in the deep seas off these three countries - I studied for a National Certificate in Marine Chemistry and got it - I did biotope studies on the sea beds in 1992 - Even then I intended to set up this association.

Picture 08- Ben-Mohamed.



I like myself in this photo but I don't remember when I took it - Now when I wake up I'm stiff all over - I slept badly - I wake up feeling really tired - It must be a cold - I'll go to the chemists' in a while - I must have woken six or seven times - I take tablets to sleep at night - You go to bed and you can't sleep - Three days ago I was sleeping well - I've been here for a year - I'm waiting for something.

Picture 09- Kicheva.



I was born shy - I've stayed all my life like that - That's why I couldn't have a big career in the opera - If I sing it is pleasure for the public - I've been with the *Petits frères* for nine years - This shyness really upsets me - It is a terrible thing for an artist - They're all Sagittarius (...) I've thrown out my doctor with whom I've been for 24 years - He's a liar - 28 Euros a visit - 32 Euros for medication what's left for me to live on - And I gamble a little to win some money, and I win nothing - That means that they're all criminals - They're all thieves.

Picture 10- Tighrinia.



I always with my parents over there - I come here in France for holiday 20 months - When my parents dead I come back here up to now - 15 years I was in France, I wasn't married - Single - No child - I was young up to now - I stay like that - Freedom - Now I'm 65 in October - Good health, all - That's how I work now - I'm happy with the France - I'm free - I'm not looking to marry - I stay like that - Single - Young girl, always.

Picture 11- Ahmad.



I was sad, I was fear - It was like as if the Syrians were hitting me - Every time I wake up at night and the Syrians were hitting me and were waking me up - That's why I went to see a psychiatrist - I think I look normal on the photo but I'm afraid - I saw something - Surprise - The Syrians - I'm Lebanese - I stayed fifteen years in Syria - I lost my family, my son, my wife divorced and my money, lots of money - Without the *Petits frères* I'd be dead long time ago.

Picture 12- Christian.



I slept rough for 40 years and am still alive - I'm waiting for the mercy of death - I wasn't thinking of anything when I took the photo - I've no family - I've always been a martyr - I was in care as a child - I've no life - I'm a sort of a sleepwalker - I feel like I don't exist - I was hardly ever at school - I took care of animals in Normandy - I wonder how I ended up like this - I never write anything - I just write my signature to get my money - I'm a fairly frank sort of person and as I have no idea of spelling - I would feel guilty of making mistakes so I prefer not to write anything.

Picture 13- Fatima.



No problem - Yes yes yes - Like the Moroccan woman - The women in Morocco - Djellaba from the outset, that's the way it is - A big dress - Yes, that's Marrakech - It's like that - I've been here 27 years - '87 I arrived here on 20th August.

Picture 14- Hamid.



I can't write with my illness, my hand goes off on its own - I've no feet anymore but I still try to keep my head and a bit of a smile - I'm an Algerian from Kabylie - '74 I'm in France - I went to school for a while - Since 2009 the doctors don't know what I have - That worries me too - I'd like to know what I have to have a treatment - Something like that - You can't get younger, you get old, you change like the weather - I'm 62, it's the age when you start to go downhill, little by little - I went to see healers in Spain - I spent a lot of money on treatment - They gave me some plants.

Picture 15- Hawa.



Can't write, don't speak much French - Me asked for French lesson to speak a little little - No speak French - Everything is good, everything is feeling - It's happy, it's pretty.

Picture 16- Hocine.



I worked in bars and I had to drink - Now I drink outside only, in the gardens - It's cheaper that way - We buy cans of beer wine sandwiches and we go to the garden - Sometimes we do a barbecue, its great! - We hide the beer and the wine because it's forbidden - Solitude kills, I have no-one - I come home in the evening to sleep and the next day I can't wait to see my friends to chat and laugh a bit, to forget our cares - It's like a little party, you know? - We buy five kilos of sardines for five Euros, it's wonderful.

Picture 17- Jimmy.



I threw away the ink and the inkpot a long time ago - I didn't want anyone to see me taking the photo - It is a discreet little click, a dead legend - I'm an American in Saint Ouen - Elvis Presley is my chum - I have double nationality - Algerian and good for nothing - Whenever it is windy my hair goes wild, that's why I wear a hat.

Picture 18- Pierre.



I'm Pierre - Love reading - I trawl through libraries - Maybe it's because I lived for a while without a roof over my head that I make little houses in cardboard.

Picture 19- Dehbia.



Oh my God have pity on me - You who are the Best - Your will shall be done - It must be done, I know - But please console me - You who gave me everything - You who took back everything from me.

Picture 20- Claude.



I was surprised by this photo which brought me a lot of human kindness and which gave me some hope for the future - I did a book with the *Petits frères* - It was they who pushed me to do it - The book was showcased in a restaurant in the 4th arrondissement where I had an exhibition - It recites poems that I wrote and composed - I'm a poet - I write a lot of poems and texts - The poems are about love, hope and understanding - They are poems that just come to mind - I've written about 30 of them - They are the story of my life, of how I've come to be here - I come to the *Petits frères* every day to give me a bit of balance - With the warmth of the people I meet, who are in the same boat as I, who have suffered, we find hope again by being here with the volunteers - If I didn't have their moral support I don't know where I'd be right now - In any case what I'm saying is true and valid for all of us.

Picture 21- Huguette.



I like myself in the photo - I can't remember where I put it - I like putting on makeup - Yesterday I wasn't made up, I wasn't well - I find myself a bit plain when I'm not made up - That's all, I've nothing else to say - Seven years I'm with the *Petits Frères* - I'm 68 - The idea of moving scares me - I have to move to a nursing home, it's another life, I'll have to make new friends - I don't want to leave the *Petits Frères* - I've a super one-room flat on the first floor - I suffer from depression - I'm often in hospital - For the past three years I've been in hospital, now I'm ok - I get depressed because I forget to take my pills - I can't be bothered taking them - I'm at the Bichat Maison Blanche hospital.