

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 Alger - 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.