

NEW RELEASE



Toby Binder
Wee Muckers
Youth of Belfast

Text by Paul McVeigh
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A generation between Peace Agreement and Brexit – daily life of teenagers in Belfast

»If I had been born at the top of my street, behind the corrugated-iron border, I would have been British. Incredible to think. My whole idea of myself, the attachments made to a culture, heritage, religion, nationalism and politics are all an accident of birth. I was one street away from being born my 'enemy'«.

Paul McVeigh, Belfast-born writer and author of *The Good Son*

Northern Ireland will have to leave the European Union due to UK's Brexit although a majority of its citizens voted to remain. There is a serious concern that Brexit will threaten the Peace Agreement of 1998 that ended the armed conflict between Protestant Unionists and Catholic Nationalists who live in homogeneous neighborhoods that are divided by walls till today. Photographer Toby Binder has been documenting the daily life of teenagers in British working-class communities for more than a decade. After the Brexit referendum he focussed his work on Belfast in Northern Ireland.

The images of the book *Wee Muckers - Youth of Belfast* were photographed in six different neighborhoods of Belfast. On both sides of the »Peace-Walls«. Each neighborhood will be presented in one separate chapter showing the daily life of local youngsters. Problems they struggle with are similar - no matter which side they live on. And whatever the effects of Brexit will be, it's very likely that they will strike especially young people from both communities.

»The idea of the book was to show that these two communities who seem to have irreconcilable differences (not only but also considering the Brexit decision), are more similar than they'd both like to admit. While they still stick to their own symbols of their identity and tradition, they wear the same clothes, have the same haircuts, listen to the same music, drink the same beer, take the same drugs and often have the same worries, such as violence, unemployment, social discrimination and therefore, lack of prospects.«

Toby Binder in an interview on www.worldphoto.org

Drawn to the frontline of crisis situations and the daily lives of marginalised communities, **Toby Binder's** (born 1977 in Esslingen, Germany) work is patient and intimate, without being pervasive. It has been awarded internationally, e.g. at the Sony-World-Photo-Awards and the Nannen-Preis in 2017. The same year he received an Honorable Mention at the UNICEF Photo of the Year. 2018 he made the 2nd place at the Philip-Jones-Griffiths-Award for documentary.

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