



Magnus Wennman

Where the children sleep

Texte von Carina Bergfeldt, Erik Wiman, Magnus Wennman, Jan and Per Broman

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Wennmans Fotos bieten einen außergewöhnlichen, persönlichen Einblick in die Lebensverhältnisse der Verwundbarsten unter den Flüchtlingen: Kinder

Der eine vermisst sein Bett. Die andere ihre Puppe mit den dunklen Augen. Ein dritter träumt sich zurück in eine Zeit, in der sein Kissen noch nicht sein Feind war. Der Krieg in Syrien dauert nun schon fünf Jahre, und mehr als zwei Millionen Kinder sind vor ihm auf der Flucht, innerhalb und außerhalb der Landesgrenzen. Sie haben ihre Freunde, ihre Elternhäuser und ihre Betten zurückgelassen. Ein paar dieser Kinder boten an zu zeigen, wo sie jetzt schlafen – jetzt, wo nichts von damals mehr existiert.

Die Wanderausstellung *Where the children sleep* ist ein Gemeinschaftsprojekt des Fotografen Magnus Wennman, des Flüchtlingshilfswerks der Vereinten Nationen (UNHCR), des schwedischen Fotomuseums Fotografiska und der schwedischen Zeitung Aftonbladet.

Magnus Wennman (*1979) begann seine Karriere als Fotojournalist mit 17 Jahren bei einer schwedischen Lokalzeitung. Seit 2001 arbeitet er als festangestellter Fotograf für die größte skandinavische Zeitung, Aftonbladet.

Wennman hat drei World Press Photo Awards gewonnen und wurde vier Mal zum schwedischen Fotografen des Jahres gekürt. Er hat Flüchtlinge in zahllosen Flüchtlingslagern und auf ihren Reisen durch Europa kennengelernt. Die Geschichte der hereinbrechenden Nacht ist eine lebendige Erzählung ohne vorgegebenes Ende.

Wanderausstellung

Runö Folkhögskola, Åkersberga, Schweden
05.09. - 18.09.2016
Runö Folkhögskola, Stockholm, Schweden
19.09. - 30.09.2016
Festival of Ethical Photography, Lodi, Italien
08.10. - 30.10.2016
VZW Kunst, Schore, Belgien
07.10.2016 - 08.01.2017
Kulturcentrum, Ronneby, Schweden
28.01. - 26.03.2017

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Barbara Karpf, barbara.karpf@kehrerverlag.com oder
Kathrin Szymikowski, kathrin.szymikowski@kehrerverlag.com
Kehrer Verlag, Wieblinger Weg 21, D-69123 Heidelberg
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Übersicht der Pressebilder



Fara, 2 years old

AZRAQ, JORDAN. Fara loves soccer. Her dad tries to make balls for her by crumpling up anything he can find, but they don't last long. Every night, he says goodnight to Fara and her big sister Tisam, 9, in the hope that tomorrow will bring them a proper ball to play with. All other dreams seem to be beyond his reach, but he is not giving up on this one.

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Ralia, 7 years old - Rahaf, 13 years old

BEIRUT, LEBANON. Ralia and Rahaf live on the streets of Beirut. They are from Damascus, where a grenade killed their mother and brother. Along with their father, they have been sleeping there roughly for a year. They huddle close together on their cardboard boxes. Rahaf says she is scared of bad boys," and Ralia starts crying.

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Iman, 2 years old

AZRAQ, JORDAN. Iman has pneumonia and a chest infection. This is her third day in this hospital bed. She sleeps most of the time now. Normally, she's a happy little girl; but now she's tired. She runs everywhere when she's well. She loves playing in the sand," says her mother, Olah, 19.

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Lamar, 5 years old

HORGOS, SERBIA. Back home in Baghdad, the dolls, the toy train, and the ball have been left behind; Lamar often talks about these items when home is mentioned. The bomb changed everything. The family was on its way to buy food when it dropped close to their house. It was not possible to live there anymore," says Sara, Lamar's grandmother. After two attempts to cross the sea from Turkey in a small rubber boat, they succeeded in coming here to Hungary's closed border. Now Lamar sleeps on a blanket in the forest scared, frozen, and sad.

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Walaa, 5 years old
 DAR-EL-IAS, LEBANON. Walaa wants to go home. She had her own room in Aleppo, she tells us. There, she never used to cry at bedtime. Here, in the refugee camp, she cries every night. Resting her head on the pillow is horrible, she says, because nighttime is horrible. That was when the attacks happened. By day, Walaa's mother often builds a little house out of pillows, to teach her that they are nothing to be afraid of.

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Sham, 1 year old
 HORGOS / RÖSZKE, SERBIAN-HUNGARIAN BORDER. In the very front, just alongside the border between Serbia and Hungary near the four-meter-high iron gate, Sham is lying in his mother's arms. Just a few decimeters behind them is the Europe they are so desperately trying to reach. Only one day before, the last refugees were allowed through and taken by train to Austria. But Sham and his mother arrived too late, along with thousands of other refugees, who now wait outside the closed Hungarian border.

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Mohammed, 13 years old
 NIZIP, TURKEY. Mohammed loves houses. Back home in Aleppo, he used to enjoy walking around the city looking at them. Now, many of his favorite buildings are gone — blown to pieces. Lying in his hospital bed, he wonders whether he will ever fulfill his dream of becoming an architect. The strangest thing about war is that you get used to feeling scared. I wouldn't have believed that," says Mohammed.

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Ahmed, 6 years old
 HORGOS, SERBIA. It is after midnight when Ahmed falls asleep in the grass. The adults are still sitting around, formulating plans for how they are going to get out of Hungary without registering themselves with the authorities. Ahmed is six years old and carries his own bag over the long stretches that his family walks by foot. He is brave and only cries sometimes in the evenings," says his uncle, who has taken care of Ahmed since his father was killed in their hometown Deir ez-Zor in northern Syria.

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