

«Land». Bilder von den Grenzregionen der Schweiz. Mischa Christen



Jesse James, La Chaux-de-Fonds NE, 2014

Es ist Samstag-Nachmittag, 12. April 2014. Ich durchstreife die viertgrösste Stadt der Romandie, La Chaux-de Fonds. Auf der Suche nach einer Bar spreche ich vor einem Hauseingang einen jungen, dunkelhäutigen Mann an. Schwarze Schuhe, schwarze Hose, schwarzes Shirt, schwarze Lederjacke mit Metall versehen, dazu das Augenfälligste: ein grosser rabenschwarzer Kamm. Er gibt mir einen Tipp, in welchem Lokal Menschen zu finden sind, die für meine Arbeit interessant sein könnten.

Einen „dunkelhäutigen“ Punk zu fotografieren, ist mir zu offensichtlich. Bevor ich gehen will, frage ich Jesse nach seiner Herkunft. Er sei in einer kleinen Stadt in Kolumbien geboren und im Alter von einem Jahr von einem Schweizer Ehepaar adoptiert worden. Er hätte noch mehr zu erzählen, müsse jetzt aber los. Zwei Stunden später treffen wir uns wieder bei seinem Haus. Ich mache nur wenige Aufnahmen, versuche seine Verletzlichkeit sichtbar zu machen.

Einen Tag später schickt mir Jesse per Email seine Geschichte:

„So here it is for the little story of mine, I was born in a village called Garagoa in Boyaca district. I have no Idea of who my parents are and I have never got any information about

them. I was found in the street, and then taken to the Bien Estar, which is the orphan organization. A year goes on, and some family from Switzerland are about to have a baby, but the baby, born with a severe mental and physic deficient, dies a few weeks later. And so, this family decides not to try again, but to adopt a child. Destiny choose me to be that child. So here I am in Switzerland...

I don't know if you want me to talk a little bit of what I've been through from my 17 to 24, 'cause I've been through a lot, so I'm just gonna give you a few words you shall use if you're interested or not.

So when I was 17, situation at home was very difficult because of the relation I had with my parents. So I got away to live at a friend's house, who invited me to live with her parents. I lived their for a few months and then I headed back at my parent's place. For like two weeks, and then I left to live with my boyfriend (yeah, I'm gay too BTW). I lived with him for three years, and with him I started to do lots of drugs. Cocain, extasy, MDMA, speed, all kind of stuff... I began to go on nights and party all the time, I was in a fashion designing school, and I screw the first year because of that... I had to pay 10'000 CHF to do the first year all over again so I quit. Meanwhile I left my boyfriend too, our relation was unliveable. So I couldn't live at his flat anymore, so I was homeless, and workless... That was great, and I had to pay for the drug and food too, so I told myself that I could prostitute myself to make easy money, and that's what I did... So I passed over two years going on like this, I couldn't find any appartment because of no job and I couldn't find no job because of no apartment... that was not cool but it still made me way stronger. I lived with some friends in Lausanne or around the city, and it was not that bad... I was making easy money, I had enough to live and to buy all I needed as drugs and stuff, and that's it. Until the day I met the guy who'd be my new boyfriend and he took me to La Chaux-de-Fonds where I left all this life, I had no use anymore to prostitute and I also quit taking drugs. I still did sometimes but not as much as before. And from that day until today, I just kept on going better, I quit that guy, found another with whom I'm living now and I stopped taking all drugs except for a good beer sometime, and now I'm alright.

So this is it, I know I have an interesting past so I wanted to let you know a bit more if you want to use that for your project.“