

Edition Patrick Frey

Press Release

Mihai Barabancea
Falling on Blades



To „accidentally fall on a blade thirteen times“ is a sardonic—and rather poetic—way of saying to get stabbed.

“It doesn’t always kill you, but it always hurts. And still you’ve got to “roll with the punches” and keep going. I find this ability to roll with the punches, to “take the pain” and adapt to circumstances, in my subjects: gypsies, beggars, crooks, vagabonds, underdogs, conmen, buskers and various shady characters in Romania and Moldova. My object is not to exploit problem-ridden post-communist Romania for voyeuristic purposes. I’m not an indifferent observer, but one who tries hard to give these people the freedom they need to portray themselves on camera—and to bring about necessary changes themselves in the social stereotypes still assigned to them.” (Mihai Barabancea)

Barabancea uses the camera as a tool to interact with his subjects. But instead of staging picturesque portraits, he zeroes in on moments of ruthless rawness and keen poignancy.

Mihai Barabancea (b. 1983, Bucharest) is a Bucharest-based photographer. Barabancea made quite a splash in Romania back in the late 1990s when he appeared on TV as a member of a graffiti gang. In 2018 he won the Gomma Prix Award for his series *Overriding Sequence*. He lives and works in Bucharest.

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Pressemitteilung

Mihai Barabancea
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