



GALLERY

Photograph by

IVOR PRICKETT

Is there a common European identity? The 2023 Fotografia Europea festival sets out to tackle this question. Through a curation of work from across the continent, it considers how we construct a sense of shared identity, based on place, belonging, culture, language and myth.

The Irish photojournalist Ivor Prickett's exhibition *No Home from War: Tales of Survival and Loss* is on display at the festival. The Collezione Maramotti show is his largest to date, encompassing photographs taken between 2006 and 2022 in conflict zones from the Balkans and Caucasus to Ukraine

Prickett has long been drawn to the idea - and reality - of home. In this picture, Slavica Eremic, who is Croatian, is at home with her husband Nebojsa, a Serb, and their son Nikola, following their return to the Croatian village from where they had been displaced. Together yet separate, each figure is isolated in their own way; father and baby are partly obscured.

Prickett's composition and use of chiaroscuro has echoes of the great classical paintings of Caravaggio and Vermeer, bringing together high drama and quiet domesticity. "There is very little going on in a lot of the images from this project," he says. "It was a lesson in making images out of nothing more than the beauty of domestic family scenes." To this day, Prickett adds, "I find myself continually fascinated by the daily routine inside people's homes."

This photograph was made in the summer of 2006, soon after he graduated from university, and marked the beginning of his "interest in the consequences of war on the civilian population". It's a theme he continues to explore in his work, helping us to identify with those affected by conflicts and to briefly enter their world. **FT**

Words by Josh Lustig. "No Home from War" is at Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia, until July 30; collezionearamotti.org