

# **Dreamers**

## **A photographic project**

**by**

**Nazanin Tabatabaee Yazdi**

Humans have wishes from childhood to death. Making wishes is an opportunity for everyone regardless of geographical, social, political and economical situation. Wishing something can be close to the reality or a thousand mile away it.

Wish in a little kid's mind in their small cottage in countryside, wish in a European businessman's mind, wish in a young student's mind in east Asia, wish in a middle-age woman's mind in downtown of Tehran, wish in a schizophrenic's mind living in a mental clinic. Everyone can have its own wishes no matter who you are or where you are.

What makes wishes different is us and our situations, which create our small or big wishes.

This photo collection and project is about people who are suffering of schizophrenia. People who have lived together for many years in the Saraye Ehsan Mental Clinic in Tehran and have their own loneliness, thoughts and wishes.

Like all of us, they are able to imagine whatever they want and create their own big wishes that sometimes are bigger than their small world in the clinic and could be found in the outside world.

The outside world is always interesting for them. They think about this world. They think about their memories of this world, of their childhood, mother, children, family, home, travel and people m they love.

The first time I met schizophrenics and had a chat with them, I found them

close to myself. I could have been any of them or they could have been me.

I asked them “What is your biggest dream in the outside world?” The answers were individually different but their biggest inaccessible dreams and regrets were a regular portion of my daily life.

I later decided to put myself in their imaginary wishes situation and took some photos of my self in their dreams. It was me in the photos to represent them in their wishes situation. Then for the final shot, I projected the photos while I took some portrait of them in the mental clinic.

Every photo consists of five layers.

The first layer is the patient.

The second layer is what they wish about the outside world when they are in their small world in the clinic.

The third layer is the routine of my daily life which is the biggest dream for the people in the clinic.

The fourth layer is the photographer. Me, when I took the photos while imagining and representing them in their dreams.

The fifth layer is the relationship between me as a photographer and people who I took these photos of.