

MONIKA CHABICOVSKY



biography

Born in Austria, fine art photographer Monika Chabicovsky was raised in a family engaged with music and global cultures. Focused and disciplined from an early age, she was a member of the Austrian national gymnastics team. She later earned a master's degree in the history of science and a PhD in cancer biology. More recently, she attended an education for photography by prestigious Magnum Photos & Spéos in Paris, France. As a photographic artist, Monika is a seeker whose work blurs the boundaries between fiction and reality. Now based in Vienna, Paris and a small village in Switzerland, her image making is a thoughtful union of what she sees and finds in the world "out there" married with the conceptual storytelling and exploratory ideas that drive her inner life. Her artwork often explores layered, handmade dimensionality, pushing beyond the flat photographic surface to invite deeper engagement from the viewer. Her work tends towards the mysterious, the

porous, and the bittersweet, whether it is through the honest, ongoing non-judgmental collaboration with her mentally unwell sister or through her layered, cerebral exploration of identity and the masks she wears, using herself as a vehicle for this universal theme.

artistic statement

Her Fragile Life is an ongoing exploration of the intricate, shielded, and bittersweet world of my older sister, who has been struggling with anorexia for almost 40 years. It is a visual dialogue exploring resilience, dependency, and the complex interplay between vulnerability and self-determination. As in all my work, I am drawn to the tension between what is revealed and what remains hidden. This project explores my sister's daily life in her inner and outer worlds. Over time, I have begun to use a portable studio to highlight aspects of her environment, exposing her particular version of beauty and self-expression without distraction. Despite the precarious nature of her condition, her choices testify to the inner strength found in the midst of struggle.

Through this project, I seek to balance her perspective on beauty and joy with my own reflections on illness, addiction, and the quiet moments of joy that still exist—for her, and perhaps for all of us. The visual language of Her Fragile Life moves beyond simple documentation and extends beyond the personal, touching on themes of care, societal expectations, and the blurred boundaries between protection and control. What does it mean to be fragile in a world that demands strength? Where does freedom truly lie when one's survival depends on others? This project challenges conventional narratives around mental health by offering a deeply personal yet open-ended view of fragility—not as something to be fixed, but as a layered and essential part of being human. Her Fragile Life invites viewers to venture beyond assumptions, to sit with discomfort, and to recognize the beauty within imperfection, transience, and the delicate spaces between struggle and survival.

social/web contacts

See more of Monika's art at: Instagram @monika.chabicovsky | Web www.chabicovsky.photography



"Nest" Photography, 18in x 12in, 2024, \$700



"Veiled Silence" Photography, 18in x 12in, 2024, \$700