**What is missing?**

(FaceTime family stories)

*What is missing? I found different families and talked about this topic with each one. It was the beginning of the first covid pandemic in the spring and summer of 2020, so I filmed all the guys virtually, via FaceTime mobile messenger: they set up their iPhone in their room as possible and as I suggested they do, then entered the frame, did something - I peeked in and took the pictures. It was very symbolic because I was clearly "missing something". For example, enough control over the composition of the shot or its lighting. In the end, the project consists of 10 family stories from people of my generation and my culture (which probably says something about myself): from Russia, where I grew up, northern Kazakhstan, where I was born and lived before I was 12, and Germany, where I live now.*

1)Natasha, Sergei and Daniil. Novosibirsk, Russia. Sergei graduated from a children's military school and has a bad sense of domestic disorder. Natasha is interested in psychology and likes talking openly about her emotions but rarely manages to do so as a couple with Sergei. Daniil likes putting his toy cars in the living room and won't let anyone remove them from the sofaю

2)Nadya, Pasha, Marusya and Sonya. Novosibirsk, Russia. Nadya combines a small home confectionery business, a job as a dentist, her children's sport activities and the delivery of sweet orders to her clients. Pasha is an ice hockey player, graduating from high school and having a hard time with his puberty. Marusya and Sonya are twins. They learn figure skating, sing folk songs, and occasionally participate in film castings.

3)Masha, Kostya and Alyona. Moscow, Russia. Masha makes ceramic things, learns to draw professionally and one day plans to see American sequoias. Because of the strict lockdown in Moscow in spring 2020 the guys move to the country house to live with their parents and relatives, from where Kostya tries to work. He jokes that he will soon be working from the toilet - it's so hard for him to concentrate. Sometimes Masha sets up dinner with candles and wine. Alyona has just started going to kindergarten, and on the set, she shows off her toys and talks a lot about herself.

4)Nadya and Tatiana. Novosibirsk, Russia. Tatiana is a lonely old woman. Sometimes she gets sick and calls an ambulance to get a painkiller shot and to experience some self-care. Nadia lives at Tatjana's place for free, taking care of the flat, trying to be home rarely and never inviting anyone to visit. To get into her own, Nadia must go through Tatjana's room.

5)Nadya and Kostya. Novosibirsk, Russia. Nadya and Kostya are married and are also business partners. In their common business, she is responsible for accounting and paperwork, he for management and quality of service. Kostya prefers to spend her holidays camping, in a team kayak in a mountain river, Nadia in a sidewalk café in Italy, watching people from the side lines. Time away from work is almost impossible for both of them.

6) Liza, Ilya and Robert. Herten, Germany. Ilya, who immigrated a few years ago, is a Russian German: he has learned the language, found a job and rented a nice flat. Liza is an Instagram doula and recently moved in with Ilya from St. Petersburg - before that, Ilya was visiting her regularly in Russia. Robert is only a year old, and it's hard for a couple to have some time together outside of their home routine.

7)Gabit and his sister Aliya. Zhitikara, Kazakhstan. Gabit is a medical student, an amateur journalist and a Remarque fan. He confesses that he finds himself with his phone in his hand more and more often, and his books are "waiting for their time", as are his planned trips. Aliya, Gabit's sister, also a student, is thumbing through a geographical atlas and talking about her father, who often used to show them a world map when they were kids. Their father has been working in a foreign city for a long time now. Dad's big slippers are standing by the sofa to the side.

8) Asya. Ivanovo, Russia. Artist, media designer and 2D-animator. Asya recently gave up painting commercial portraits completely and posted a performance video of herself dousing one of her finished portraits with white paint. She ironically says she doesn't mind world fame as an artist, but is embarrassed to admit it even to herself. Asya is intimidated by the demands of being a woman in a family and would not want to have a family just to live together. She lives in an apartment-atelier and is currently creating her own animated film about the female planet Moon, which an astronaut is trying to take over.

9)Tanya, Lyosha and Anya. Novosibirsk, Russia. Tanya loves pranks, black humour and misses her parents from the countryside. Lyosha reacts painfully to jokes and misses the time when their relationship was a carefree time when they scratched each other's backs. Tanya admits that sometimes there are "emotional shakes" in their couple, right down to broken glass in the door or a torn T-shirt. Anya looks into her parents' blanket house with interest and dances happily with a scarf around them.

10)Masha, Ilya and Ksyusha. Saint Petersburg, Russia. Masha is a psychologist, a former florist and a young mother. Ilya works in IT and often brings Masha to tears with his funny remarks. For a long time, they have been living in a flat with a tiny kitchen where they can't even put a table for breakfast. They usually cook here and go to their room. Ksyusha is already very good at walking on her own and often looks into the kitchen. To keep her busy, Masha gives her a bag of lentils and lets the child crumble it, knead it and even taste it.