

# Talking with images: A Photojournalist's Practice

01/06/2026 – 5/06/2026

Sarajevo | Bosnia and Herzegovina

*Set in Sarajevo, this intensive five-day workshop immerses participants in the ethical and narrative challenges of contemporary photojournalism, with a particular focus on conflict and humanitarian storytelling.*

## Introduction

We are pleased to announce a new masterclass in collaboration with WARM Foundation, led by the photographers of The Visual Factory. Set in Sarajevo, this intensive five-day masterclass immerses participants in the ethical and narrative challenges of contemporary photojournalism, with a particular focus on conflict and humanitarian storytelling.

Guided by internationally acclaimed photographers Manu Brabo, Fabio Bucciarelli, Diego Ibarra Sánchez, and Bülent Kılıç, the masterclass guides participants through the full creative process—from the spark of a story idea to its execution in the field—while placing strong emphasis on editing, sequencing, and the development of a cohesive and impactful body of work.

Through a combination of lectures, group sessions, one-to-one mentorship, and field assignments, participants will explore every stage of visual storytelling.

Sarajevo offers a uniquely powerful backdrop for photojournalism and conflict photography. Marked by the scars of the siege, the city still carries visible traces of its past, shaping a complex and deeply human environment for storytelling. Participants will be supported both logistically and through a local network, ensuring access and cultural insight. Participants will develop their stories independently or in small groups, while mentors are available at designated times for guidance, portfolio reviews, and constructive feedback aimed at refining both narrative and visual impact.

Each day also includes intimate talks and lectio magistralis with the instructors, offering insight into their personal approaches, long-term projects, and experiences in conflict zones, while addressing the practical realities of freelance work, collaboration with writers, and navigating an evolving media landscape.

The program encourages reflection on audience engagement, community building, and the future of independent visual journalism in a rapidly changing, post-truth world.

Open to photographers of all levels—from passionate amateurs to seasoned professionals—this workshop offers a rare combination of immersive practice, expert mentorship, and creative inspiration. Participation is limited to 35 people to ensure a focused and high-quality learning environment.

# DAY 1

WHERE STORIES BEGIN

**09:00-09:30**

**Welcome Breakfast**

Informal meet-and-greet for participants and faculty over coffee, providing an opportunity to get to know each other.

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**10:00-10:30**

**Workshop Introduction**

Presentation of the program, the philosophy of the workshop, and its key objectives. Led by the four instructors, this session sets the framework for the learning experience and outlines expectations.

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**10:30 – 13:00**

**Assignment Discussion & Group Division (Plenary)**

All participants meet together to discuss possible story ideas, share perspectives, and receive guidance from the instructors on approaches and expectations. This plenary session ensures everyone has a clear understanding of the assignments before moving into group work. Participants are divided into four working groups. Each group meets with one instructor to refine their story ideas, receive tailored guidance, and define an initial approach for their project.

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**13:00-14:30**

**Lunch Break**

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**14:30 – 16:00**

**Guest Talk: Diego Ibarra Sánchez — Navigating photojournalism: finding your storytelling identity**

Every story has a beginning, and so does every photographer. Find your own voice and build long-term visual narratives with depth, ethics, and coherence. Move beyond single images to create work that questions, connects, and endures.

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**16:00 – 18:30**

**Fieldwork and Portfolio Review**

Participants go out to shoot individually or in small groups according to their assigned projects. Mentors will remain available at the base for one-to-one meetings and portfolio reviews for those who wish to receive personalised feedback and guidance.

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# DAY 2

CRAFTING THE NARRATIVE

09:00-09:30

## **Breakfast**

Breakfast session for participants, providing an opportunity to discuss first impressions and share insights from fieldwork.

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09:30-13:00

## **Group Work Session**

Participants meet with all four instructors to review challenges from the first day. A collaborative space for questions, feedback, and guidance on ongoing projects.

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13:00-14:30

## **Lunch Break**

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14:30 – 16:00

## **Guest Talk: Bulent – Inside the Middle East: My Journey from Staff Photographer to Freelance**

Bulent will discuss the importance of composition and emotion in photography and how to develop a distinctive photographic style. The session will also cover the history of press photography and the influence of philosophical thinking on visual storytelling, with practical examples and guidance on connecting technique and perspective.

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16:15 – 18:30

## **Fieldwork and Portfolio Review**

Participants go out to shoot individually or in small groups according to their assigned projects. Mentors will remain available at the base for one-to-one meetings and portfolio reviews for those who wish to receive personalised feedback and guidance.

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# DAY 3

EXPANDING YOUR VISION

**09:00-09:30**

**Breakfast**

Breakfast session for participants, providing an opportunity to review progress, discuss challenges encountered in fieldwork, and exchange feedback with peers and instructors.

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**09:30-11:00**

**Group Work Session**

Participants meet with instructors to analyse progress on their stories, discuss creative and technical challenges, and receive targeted guidance for developing their narratives further. The session encourages problem-solving and peer discussion to enhance project outcomes.

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**11:15 – 13:00**

**Fabio Bucciarelli & Diego Ibarra – Approaches to Long-Term Storytelling**

Fabio Bucciarelli and Diego will discuss their approach to long-term photographic projects, focusing on work developed for books and exhibitions. The session will cover strategies for narrative coherence and shaping extended projects into impactful publications and exhibitions.

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**13:00-14:30**

**Lunch Break**

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**14:30 – 16:00**

**Guest Talk: Manu – The Photographer's Role in Conflict Reporting**

Through Manu's work in various conflict zones over more than 15 years, we will explore the different challenges this profession presents, highlighting the inevitable coordination and cooperation between writer and photographer when working for major newspapers, where the text often sets the pace of the story.

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**16:15 – 18:30**

**Fieldwork and Portfolio Review**

Participants go out to shoot individually or in small groups according to their assigned projects. Mentors will remain available at the base for one-to-one meetings and portfolio reviews for those who wish to receive personalised feedback and guidance.

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# DAY 4

SHAPING THE STORY

**09:00-09:30**

**Breakfast**

Breakfast session for participants, providing an opportunity to reflect on ongoing projects, discuss insights and challenges from fieldwork, and share feedback with peers and instructors.

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**09:30-13:00**

**Group Rotation**

Each group is paired with a new instructor, bringing fresh perspectives to ongoing projects. The session offers focused guidance to strengthen story development and narrative structure.

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**13:00-14:30**

**Lunch Break**

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**14:30 – 16:00**

**Guest Talk: Fabio Bucciarelli — Authorship in Photography: Personal Vision and Responsibility**

In this session, Fabio Bucciarelli will share his approach to photography, exploring a personal, authorial vision and reflecting on the challenges of working on stories in a rapidly changing world of post-truth, where photography faces unprecedented risks due to AI and fake news—but at the same time is more important than ever.

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**16:30 – 18:30**

**Fieldwork and Portfolio Review**

Participants go out to shoot individually or in small groups based on their assigned projects. Mentors remain available at the base for one-to-one meetings, portfolio reviews, and personalised guidance for those who wish to refine their work or receive feedback.

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# DAY 5

CHAOS & ORDER

09:00-09:30

## **Breakfast**

Informal meet-and-greet for participants and faculty over coffee, providing an opportunity to connect and discuss plans for the final edits.

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09:30-13:00

## **Final Group Editing Session**

All participants meet with their instructor to finalize the last edits of the stories created during the workshop. Each instructor works individually with participants, focusing on the aesthetic and narrative value of each image and ensuring coherence in form and message.

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13:00-14:30

## **Lunch Break**

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14:30 – 18:00

## **Final Editing & Slideshow Preparation (Plenary)**

The four mentors will engage with all participants, providing diverse perspectives and personalized guidance to refine their edits and overall projects ahead of the final screening.

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21:30 – 22:30

## **Screening & Final Presentation**

A screening of the students' projects, showcasing the work produced throughout the workshop. Participants and instructors will discuss the results, providing final reflections and feedback.

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21:30 - LATE

## **Final Party**

A celebration to close the workshop together—music, drinks, laughter, and shared stories.

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