

On April 15th I received an email from a mom. She wrote that the couple is expecting their first child on June 26th, that it will be born with trisomy 13, and that they don't know how long he will live. Therefore they asked whether I could take the pictures, as soon as he is born. At this time the ultrasound showed that, next to a receding chin, there were "only" inner organs affected. Though it would be my 3rd time photographing a still born baby I nevertheless had to take a deep breath and think about for quite some time whether I trust myself to do this task because I haven't photographed one with trisomy 13 before. But my heart said yes and so I promised the parents to take the task on me.

In the night of June 5th shortly after midnight the surprising sms came in. The little man was born and at that time he had already received his angel wings. And so I lay half awake in my bed for the next hours and constantly checked my cellphone during the day, waiting for the message when I am allowed to come. Around 2pm the next sms came in; they asked if I could come to Virchow Klinikum (Berlin Wedding) the next day to photograph their child. On the day of the first sms I had a funeral of a still born child, so I was still quite churned up inside. On the 6th of June I set out for the hospital to see little Friedrich, and was 25 minutes early. By the minute waiting time nervousness rose. What will he look like? How are the parents doing? Will I be able to give the worthwhile images to the parents they are wishing for? Will I handle it emotionally? ... I disinfected my hands, knocked, and entered the room.

With entering I suddenly calmed down completely. The mom beamed at me with her gorgeous freckled face and embraced me. The little man only lived for 4 hours and lay on the bed in a weaved basket. He was wearing a knitted hat to cover up the open part in the head. But he was so very beautiful. He seemed to be perfect. Then the dad came in and smiled at me too. I was impressed by how positive, how strong both of them appeared. It already caught my eye earlier during the correspondence. It was simply a whole different experience for me. The mom then proudly showed me the tiny feet of the child. One of the feet had 6 toes. And they truly looked incredibly cute. I decided to start with the feet right away. It was so relaxed and I enjoyed every minute of it to look at the little man and to capture the unconditional love of the parents to their son. Before I went home, the mom inquired about the "Dein Sternkind" initiative in greater detail and told how grateful she is and how she would like to support and tell other parents about us.

At home I sat down to edit the images with a smile on my face and still admired even weeks later over and over again the wonderful perfect Friedrich and his strong parents. By now much time has passed since the call and I may show you some of the pictures. I am so thankful that I was entitled to get to know Friedrich and his parents, and that I could give them some precious memories. I wish them as well as the other parents of still born babies much strength and lots of love. You will always stay in my heart and be remembered.