



# Interviews

## SiP Interviews

by Karine Linder

Women in toy photography are not a minority and can produce some exciting pictures. I've asked two women who have inspired me a few questions about their relationship with toy photography and LEGO®.

Natasja, aka @by\_a.n.n.a, lives in the Netherlands, where she works as a shop assistant in a big supermarket. She lives with her husband, two kids and a lot of LEGO®! You can find her work on her Instagram account: @by\_a.n.n.a.

Júlia, aka @lady\_brick, lives in Spain and she works as a web & graphic designer. She loves to travel, and her main hobby is photography. You can find her work on her website (<https://www.photoinstants.com/>) or on her Instagram account @lady\_brick.

**Karine Linder:** How did the adventure of toy photography begin?

**@by\_a.n.n.a:** I do not know exactly how it happened but there has always been LEGO® in the house, even when I was small myself, and now with my children. One of my hobbies is photography and one day they both got together. I first started to make jewelry from LEGO® bricks: earrings, key rings, bracelets, rings, and necklaces, but that was only a phase. I then switched to shooting photos of LEGO® minifigures.



@by\_a.n.n.a

**@lady\_brick:** My adventure started in 2011 when a small Wall-E arrived at home. I bought it because it reminds me of Johnny 5 and it's a lovely toy. With Wall-E, I discovered this fantastic great little world of toy photography. The plastic toys don't complain about the time that I spend to take the perfect photo, they are good for practicing photography techniques, and help me to relax my mind.

I did some 52-week projects, posting one photo a week for a year on my website. Every year the main character changed: Wall-E, Danbo, Batman, Stormtroopers, action figures and finally, LEGO®. The minifigs, sets, and accessories are a source of inspiration and also an addiction. My collection has grown a lot in a short time and BrickLink was a great discovery



@lady\_brick

since in Barcelona, until the end of 2018, there were no LEGO® Stores.

**KL:** What is your connection with LEGO® toys?

**@by\_a.n.n.a:** LEGO® has always been in my life. It started when I was a little girl. My mother has saved all my LEGO® from that time for me, even a few sets of Fabuland because they were my favorites! My children have grown up with it, and there are already a lot of LEGO® sets built in our house!

**@lady\_brick:** It's funny because when I was a child I always played with Playmobil. I tried to create stories with them but it's not the same. I don't know why, but LEGO® expands my creativity and it's easy to create stories with them. It offers a wide range of minifigs, with accessories for all of them and if I want any scenery, I need only create it. What more could I ask for?

**KL:** What are your favorite LEGO® toys? Minifigs? Minidolls? Bricks? What is your favorite LEGO® theme?

**@by\_a.n.n.a:** I love the Minifigs series in the blind bags. But one of my favorite characters is the Joker! And Benny of course – he always makes you smile when you see his face ;) I think the new sets of the LEGO® Movie 2 are totally fantastic! And I can't wait to see the movie. Oh, and the blind bags with the new minifigures...You get inspired immediately!!!

**@lady\_brick:** I definitely love the Minifigs and I have a lot of them. I should blame LEGO® and their continuous launch of amazing series of Minifigs. My favorite theme is Star Wars, of course. I'm a Star Wars fan and the LEGO® sets are amazing. I enjoy creating different stories from the usual ones with the stormtroopers. They also have their little heart of plastic and they were the first LEGO® Minifigs that I bought. So, may the force be with you!

**KL:** What is your main creative process? Starting with the minifig or with the location, an idea, etc?

**@by\_a.n.n.a:** I Think all three; it just happens. Take the new minifigures series: you have Dorothy, the lion, the tin man, and the scarecrow. I look at them and an idea immediately pops up. I also like to make my own background by drawing and painting it. I have already finished my backgrounds for the Wizard of Oz figurines! Now I'm waiting for the Minifigures to arrive!

**@lady\_brick:** I usually explore social media for inspiration. Sometimes I draw a sketch or write some lines to remember the idea. I think details are important and for this reason, I try to collect all the things that I will need for my ideas. Then, I prepare the set. I think about the composition and the lighting. I like to move the camera lens to the eye level of the minifigs – it helps to dive into the scene and makes it more credible. Almost all my photographs are done at home and for this reason, I have all the time in the world. But it's totally crazy because sometimes I spend more time setting the scene than taking the photo.

I like making people believe that a small toy made of plastic is alive. That's the important point and the thing that I try to show with my photography.



@lady\_brick

**KL:** What is the best place for you to take pictures? Outdoor, indoor, a specific location?

**@by\_a.n.n.a:** I generally take my photos inside the house. On my closet, in the living room. Sometimes in my backyard.

**@lady\_brick:** In fact, I don't have any special or best place to take pictures. At home, I have all the time to do it while being calm and relaxed. Also, in winter I usually do more photos indoor and in summer it's more outdoor photos.

**KL:** Do you take your toys with you when you travel?

**@by\_a.n.n.a:** Always! I always take a minifigure with me when I go somewhere: to work, when I go shopping or eat out... I usually don't take a photo, but the idea that I would not have them and cannot take a picture when I want to would be terrible. When we go on summer holidays, I always take a box of minifigures and accessories with me!

**@lady\_brick:** Yes, I do. Wall-E always comes with me in all my travels and, like a little celebrity, he has his own Instagram account (losviajesdewalle). Also, according to the destination, I take with me a few minifigs.

**KL:** Any goal for 2019?



@by\_a.n.n.a

**@by\_a.n.n.a:** To do my best to make even better photos! And to keep having fun!

**@lady\_brick:** Nothing special, just to continue taking a lot of LEGO® photos :)



#### About the interviewer

I'm Karine Linder, alias @eatmybones, a member of the Stuck in Plastic crew. My main subject is a family of skeletons, but I started shooting minifigs with Stuck in Plastic. I'm close to starting my own LEGO® minifig collection!  
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