Chess may look static for an outer observer, but inside their minds, chessplayers make complex calculations, plan elaborated strategies, and push the human brain to the limit. It is one of the most intense and demanding intellectual activities.
“The Thinkers” is a photography project with portraits of chess players that have already been featured in a few photography magazines. It will be exhibited at two art galleries in London and Barcelona. The main concept behind this project is to turn it into an itinerant photo exhibition to be displayed in several chess tournaments from October 2015 to September 2016.
I don’t really like taking pictures of landscapes, or portraits of people posing and smiling for the camera. What I genuinely enjoy is taking pictures of people hard at work, absorbed in doing what they love to do - or they are good at. I try to capture the passion they put into it, be it dancing ballet, painting, or playing chess.
David Llada (b. Oviedo, 1978) has always been connected to the chess world and in 1999 he became a professional chess journalist publishing contributions in all the world’s major chess magazines as well as in “El Mundo”, Spain’s second largest newspaper. In addition to journalism, David has been involved in the organisational side of Chess; being part of various organisational committees and frequently taking on the role of Chief Press Officer.

Although David walked away from full-time professional chess journalism in 2005 to start a career in business management, he kept a close connection with the chess world – sometimes as an occasional organiser for top events or more recently, as a photographer. He has covered eight of the prestigious Linares chess tournaments and seven Olympiads, with David being the official photographer for Istanbul 2012 and Tromsø 2014.

Currently, David is working on two projects: a coffee-table book of chess portraits and a chess photo exhibition titled “The Thinkers” – a selection of pictures taken from the last four years in Bilbao, London, Chennai, Shanghai, Istanbul, Mexico, Tromsø, Sao Paulo and Moscow, to name a few.

With a background in journalism, PR, online marketing and social media agencies coupled with an extensive chess experience, David is an interesting addition to any chess tournament. He is not just a photographer but also a community manager and media consultant who can successfully improve the presence of chess tournaments in the mass media and social networks.

Cover picture: Luxury chess set by www.purlinglondon.com