

This Story Will Never Get Finished

The Mediterranean occupies a central position in the discourse of *This Story Will Never Get Finished*. Comprised of thirty international photobooks, the exhibition operates as a living trace of narratives, imaginaries, voices or even autobiographical recollections regarding the Mediterranean Sea and its cultural and human imprint.

In the context of photography, the term 'trace' denotes a 'mark, token, or evidence of a former presence, existence, or action of something — a 'vestige'. It may also refer to a fragment or an impression left behind involuntarily, and, at times, to an 'inscription', a 'footprint', a 'death mark' or an 'auratic element'.

In a similar way here, the publications are deposited in the room, inviting visitors to unearth the scattered episodes of a tentacular unfinished fable that still haunts both us and the visual narratives we produce. From the south to the north, from the east to the west, and vice versa, it will be upon the reader to actively decipher their gaps, discontinuities, and unspoken, silenced or underrepresented voices.

The photobooks of the installation are displayed alongside a series of 20th century travel guides — a genre of publications that is rarely associated with the history of the photobook. Together they reinforce an ecosystem of encounters that responds to the livingness and the recurring cultural patterns of a sea which historian Fernand Braudel has called the 'liquid continent'. At the same time, they defy the long-established Greco-Roman conception of the Mediterranean as an incessant contact zone and a culturally homogeneous entity, and the binary thinking of east and west, north and south as they have been perpetuated by travel literature. Instead, they focus on the contemporary necropolitics of a geopolitical region that that is currently

defined by sovereign coastlines, migratory controls, and colonialism's remnants and fierce revivals.

Formulated through multi-directional visual readings as a guide of the subaltern, *This Story Will Never Get Finished* exposes the persistent and mutating traces of a story yet to be fully retold, spanning from ancient to today's post-colonial times. For 'everything that has existed will always exist. Nothing fades away, nothing dies'.

Curator: **Natasha Christia**

BOOKS

Laura BEN HAYOUN. *À la moindre étincelle c'était l'explosion*. Epg, France, 2022.

Yasmina BENABDERRAHMANE. *La Bête A Modern Tale*. MACK, UK, 2020.

Julien BERTHIER. *The Invisible Journey*. RVB Books, France, 2021.

Olivier CABLAT. *Contemporary Archaeology*. RVB Books, France, 2014.

Françoise CARACO. *Hidden Istanbul*. Art Paper Editions, Belgium, 2021.

Çemre YESIL GÖNENLI. *Hayal & Hakikat: A Handbook of Forgiveness & A Handbook of Punishment*. GOST Books - FIL Books, Turkey, 2020.

Federico CLAVARINO. *Ghost Stories*. Ediciones Anómalas, Spain, 2021.

Omar DAOUD. *Devoir de Mémoire / A Biography of Disappearance. Algeria 1992*. Autograph ABK, UK, 2007.

Paolo DI LUCENTE. *Rome. Veil*, Italy, 2022.

Petros EFSTATHIADIS. *Liparo*. Atelier EXB, France, 2018.

Tomoya FUJIMOTO. *Rien que la mer*. Amers Editions, France, 2022.

Oliver HARTUNG. *Syria Al-Assad*. Spector Books, Germany, 2014.

Camille HENROT. *Prehistoric Collections*. Manuella Éditions, France, 2015.

Anna JORNET PUIG. *C-3331/CA-8201*. Self-published, Spain, 2023.

Nicola LO CALZO. *Binidittu*. L'Artiere, Italy, 2021.

Massao MASCARO. *Sub Sole*. Chose Commune, France, 2021.

Thomas NOLF. *Peculiar Artifacts in Bosnia & Herzegovina – an imaginary exhibition*. Art Paper Editions, Belgium, 2017.

Giulia PARLATO. *Diachronicles*. Witty Books, Italy, 2023.

Judith QUAX – Noah SALIOU: *Touki; Voyage à Dakar*. Lecturis, The Netherlands, 2020.

Alessia ROLLO. *Fata Morgana*. Ediciones Anómalas. Spain, 2018.

Felipe ROMERO BELTRÁN. *Dialect*. Loose Joints. France, 2023.

Sara SALLAM. *A Tourist Handbook for Egypt Outside of Egypt*. Self-published. The Netherlands, 2021.

Giovanna SILVA. *Palmyrah*. Art Paper Editions. Belgium, 2019.

Fiorine THIEBAUD. *Breaking Point*. Stockman's Art Books, EU, 2023.