



## Roger Grasas *Ha Aretz*

Text by Liza Piña  
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 24 × 30,8 cm  
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 88 color illustrations  
 English  
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### Reinterpretation of the biblical landscapes

Named after the Hebrew term referring to the Holy Land, *Ha Aretz* is a reinterpretation of the biblical stories amidst a globalized world of alienation and conflict. Based on a deep historiographic research and compiled with photos taken throughout all the countries that make up the Holy Land, the work documents the precise locations where the most celebrated events of the Holy Scriptures supposedly took place, beginning with Genesis and Exodus and passing through the life of Jesus up to the Revelation. From the river Nile to the Sea of Galilee, Damascus to Bethlehem or Mount Sinai to Babylon, *Ha Aretz* reflects on the evolution of the ancestral regions that represent the epicenter of Jewish, Christian, and Arab cultures, while attesting to the power that geopolitics, capitalism, and technology exert in our times. The booklet describes the relevance of the place then and now.

From the text on Jaffa (Israel) by **Liza Piña**:

*»In biblical times, Jaffa was known as Joppa, one of the oldest ports in the world. The Bible connects this city with zoomorphic symbols that offer moral lessons on refuge, asylum and tolerance. It was from right here in Jaffa that Jonah set out for Tarshish in defiance of God's order to go to prophesize to the citizens of Nineveh. Jonah's disobedience was punished first with a storm and then with a shipwreck. Thrown into the sea by the sailors, Jonah ended up in the belly of a whale, which would vomit him out three days later, safe and sound. It was also in Jaffa that Peter realized that his vision of pure and impure animals occupying the same canvas*

*meant that the fishers of men" should welcome pagans and Jews alike into their new faith. In the present, though, beautiful Jaffa has splintered under the burden of geopolitical, cultural and religious conflict between its residents of various creeds.«*

The photographer **Roger Grasas** (b. 1970 in Barcelona) has had several international solo and group exhibitions – his work was, for instance, shown in Madrid, Paris, Jakarta, and Sydney. Grasas addresses the role that technology and post-capitalism play within a globalized world, as well as the state of alienation propelled within an increasingly sophisticated and indecipherable contemporary landscape, replete of paradoxes. The connections between history and territory as well as the dichotomy of nature and culture provide a common ground for his projects. Here, his academic background in photography and philosophy brings a fascinating perspective. For his long-term landscape documentation project *Ha Aretz*, Grasas has received several awards, including Descubrimientos PhotoEspaña in 2018 and the Silver award at Verzasca Foto Festival in 2021.  
[rogergrasas.com](http://rogergrasas.com)

### Exhibition

*SUITE MASHREQ.*

*Visiones de Oriente Próximo / Middle East visions*

La Ciudadela, Pamplona, Spain

20.01. – 13.03.2022

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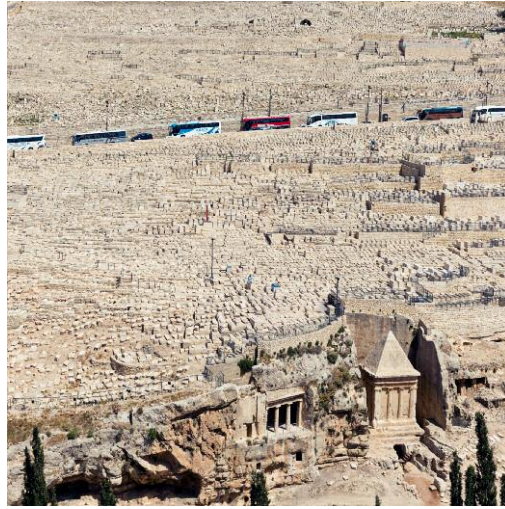
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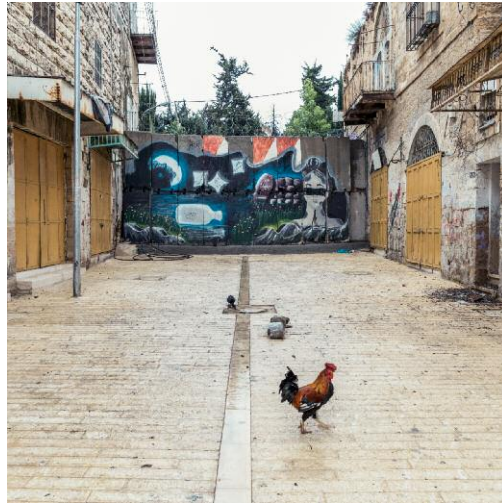
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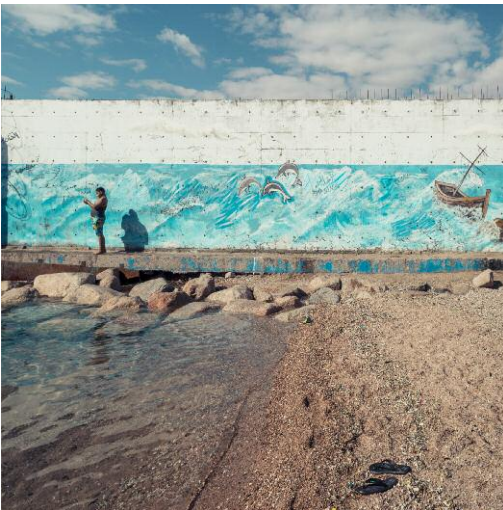
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