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Yoshie Itasaka *Infinity Complex Landscape*

Texts by Kimitaka Matsuzato

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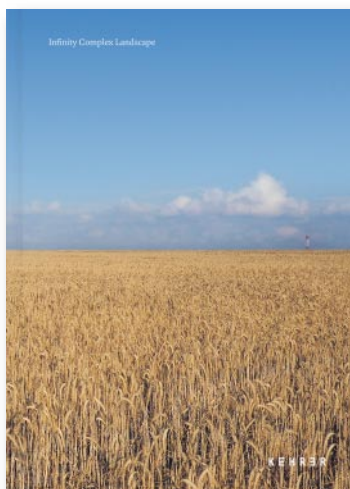
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A photographic journey through Ukraine and its complex past

In *Infinity Complex Landscape*, Japanese photographer Yoshie Itasaka presents a deeply personal photographic exploration of Ukraine and its troubled relationship with history. Following the Ukrainian crisis in 2014, Itasaka spent over five years traveling through the country: visiting Odessa, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Zaporizhia, Mariupol, and Crimea, among other places. Through her quiet, empathetic lens, she captures everyday life in a region where past and present remain in constant negotiation. This publication offers an outsider's perspective that resists exoticism. Instead, Itasaka's images invite reflection on what it means to witness history unfolding. Her work is rooted in a long-standing investigation into the themes of collective memory, post-war identity, and historical trauma in Central and Eastern Europe. The result is a visual essay that opens space for empathy, understanding, and historical self-awareness.

Itasaka writes:

«Many of today's problems in Europe stem from the discrepancy between memory and history. Historical narratives are often constructed to justify the present, especially in young independent nations where 'history' can even become a tool of national security policy. My aim is to confront these tensions, not to explain them away.»

Her photographic approach is informed by an awareness of how past wars (World War I and II, the Cold War, the collapse of the USSR) continue to shape the political and emotional landscapes of the present.

Drawing from her own country's history of militarism and trau-

ma, Itasaka reflects on the universal patterns that emerge when nations are consumed by ideology, fear, and revisionist justice.

«Wars are always caused by wrong justice, defensive instincts, and the madness of public opinion. We have seen the consequences of a society sliding into totalitarianism. Still, when war ends, how should peace be restored?»

By situating Ukraine's contemporary struggles within a broader global context of historical reckoning, *Infinity Complex Landscape* becomes more than a regional portrait. It is a call to look closely, to learn slowly, and to refuse indifference.

The book also includes an essay by Professor Kimitaka Matsuzato, one of the world's leading scholars of post-Soviet history and politics, and recipient of the Huttenbach Prize awarded by the Association for the Study of Nationalities.

Yoshie Itasaka (b. 1984) is a Japanese photographer whose work centers on war, memory, and post-conflict societies. She has carried out long-term projects across Ukraine, the Balkans, Israel and Palestine, as well as other regions marked by contested historical narratives.

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