



NEW RELEASE KEHRER VERLAG

Clément Chapillon

Promise Me a Land

Texts by Clément Chapillon, Lorand Gaspar, Diana Pinto
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A sensitive and aesthetic portrait of Israel and Palestine from a deeply human perspective

In the book of Genesis, man is named »Adam«, whose etymological root »Adama« in Hebrew refers to earth and the clay that is its substance and its home. Ties between a man and his land have always been deep and complex, but rarely as incensed as in Israel-Palestine. After more than a century of forced coexistence and 70 years of open conflict, those living in this territory seem ever more bound to it. Clément Chapillon ventured out to investigate the various dimensions of this seemingly unalterable relationship: What marks has the land imprinted on their identity? What hopes, fantasies, and promises remain?

To explore this attachment, far from clichés and ideologies, he interviewed and photographed people in cities, villages, settlements, kibbutzim. As a result, his book is a unique patchwork of words, portraits and landscapes that emphasize the intimate link that exists between the people and the land. This deeply personal testimony looks at the Israeli-Palestinian mosaic and its roots from a profoundly human perspective.

»Israel/Palestine: two peoples, one land. This formula, bandied about in countless political negotiations, has been worn to the bone. Clément Chapillon has had the courage and determination to take it seriously by focusing on its most important element: the land. In a dazzling photographic reportage, he has shown us how all its inhabitants, be they Israeli Jews or Arabs, Palestinians or Druze, draw their strength from its soil. His photographs, which convey great metaphysical depth, allow us to delve into this territory which has a soul of its own.« – from the text by Diana Pinto

Clément Chapillon worked in the communication industry for over ten years, which provided him a strong visual background and original storytelling. In 2016, his work »Enigmes« was chosen by Hahnemüle fine art to be a part of their famous exhibition in »Salon de la Photo« in France. 2016 was also the year he quit his job in a communication agency, to focus on photography and to work on new personal projects. He started a documentary work on Israel and Palestine during several long term trips to the middle-east. In June 2017, the narrative is finally over and the project is chosen by the photo festival *Voies Off-Arles* to be showcased. His portfolio won the Leica prize during the festival in Arles and will be exhibited in the Leica Gallery in Paris and Milan in 2018.

www.clementchapillon.com

Exhibitions

Circulation(s) festival, Paris, France
 17.03. – 05.05.2018

Gare de l'est exhibitions, Gares & connexion, Paris, France
 17.03. – 05.05.2018

Promise Me A Land, Leica Gallery, Paris, France
 21.04. – 11.05.2018

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Press images



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2 Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem, June 2016
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3 Beit Sahour, West Bank, June 2016
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