

România Mathieu Pernot



This book publishes for the first time the work realized by Mathieu Pernot in Romania in 1998 as part of a scholarship of Villa Medici outside the walls. This journey, which is a singular episode in the work of the author, reveals with simplicity the strength of the places and the power of the faces that he faced. These photographs offer a silent slip on the reality of Gypsy communities in Eastern Europe.

The photographs published in this book were made in 1998 during a trip to Romania. Twenty years passed before I approached these images and exhumed them from the binder where they were kept in the negative state. A long and necessary time to get rid of the feeling of not having been beyond a simple touch of reality. It is impossible today for me to name people or identify the places on these pages. I perceive nothing but the memory of ephemeral encounters, the strength of places and the power of the faces that have faced me. These images were made in another time in the history of photography. At the end of a century when it was necessary to develop the photographs in darkroom to see them appear. A time when the model did not instantly see the image that was made of it. A time when the photographer could himself decide to wait years to reveal them. M.P.

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