



Arcadian Sketchbook

Wolfgang Strassl

Text by Wolfgang Strassl

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- A photographic walk to find Arcadia on your own doorstep

Arcadia – a utopian land where man lives in harmony with nature, where war, worry and disease are absent, where tranquillity, solidarity and happiness are everlasting – has a long tradition stretching back to antiquity. Originally a remote landscape in the Peloponnese, said within ancient Greek mythology to be inhabited by the gods and spirits of nature, this earthly paradise was transformed into an imaginary idyll by the Roman poet Virgil in his pastoral poems, and has lived on in Western art, intellectual history, and the imagination ever since.

In **Arcadian Sketchbook** – photographed between 2020-2021 – Wolfgang Strassl wanders along his nearby river in search of peace of mind, amongst many others who were seeking the same at the time. As he explains, “I looked for Arcadia, simply on my own doorstep, and I found it there.”

Wolfgang Strassl was born in Munich in 1956. He works and lives there still today but has also lived in Tel Aviv for almost a decade and now calls London his second home. As a photographer he has focused on social systems and the spaces and environments in which their transactions take place to the extent that they determine and reflect the characteristics and conditions of human existence in the 21st century. His work has been widely exhibited. He has published several books, among them, also with Kerber, a documentary about East Jerusalem and a portrait study in London.

