



PHOTOGRAPHY AND CYPRUS

Time, Place and Identity

**Liz Wells, Theopisti Stylianou-Lambert,
Nicos Philippou (Eds)**

Formerly a British colony, the island of Cyprus is now a divided country, where histories of political and cultural conflicts, as well as competing identities, are still contested. Cyprus provides the ideal case study for this innovative exploration, extensively illustrated, of how the practice of photography in relation to its political, cultural and economic contexts both contributes and responds to the formation of identity. Contributors from Cyprus, Greece, the UK and the USA, representing diverse disciplines, draw from photography theory, art history, anthropology and sociology to explore how the island and its people have been represented photographically. They reveal how the different gazes – colonial, political, gendered, and within art photography – contribute to the creation of individual and national identities and, by extension, to the creation and re-creation of imagery of Cyprus as place.

While *Photography and Cyprus* focuses on one geographical and cultural territory, the questions this book asks and the themes and arguments it follows apply also to other places characterized by their colonial heritage. The intriguing example of Cyprus thus serves as a fitting test-ground for current debates relating to photography, place and identity.

LIZ WELLS writes, curates and lectures on photography. Her publications include *Land Matters: Landscape Photography, Culture and Identity* (I.B.Tauris, 2011). She is Professor in Photographic Culture at the Faculty of Arts, Plymouth University and convenes the research group for Land/Water and the Visual Arts (www.landwater-research.co.uk).

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NICOS PHILIPPOU is a photographer, visual ethnographer and author of the books *Off the Map* and *Coffee House Embellishments*. He is co-editor of *Re-envisioning Cyprus* and his writings on photography and vernacular culture have been published in journals, art magazines and collective volumes.

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Hardback | 288 pages | 234 x 156 mm | ISBN 9781780766539 | June 2014

Offer expires 30th November 2014

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