

Abstract

The major material for the thesis came from research undertaken in various libraries and museum archives of Great Britain, France and the United States, as well as my own photographic practice at the construction sites of the *Egnatia Odos* motorway. Specifically, research material was provided by Tate Modern, Victoria and Albert Museum, and the British Library in the UK, Département des Estampes et de la Photographie in the Bibliothèque Nationale and Maison Européenne de la Photo in France, Yale University, MoMa NY, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, in the United States. The construction of the *Egnatia Odos* motorway, which will run right across the north of Greece, was chosen as a case study to demonstrate the representation of a human-altered landscape.

The thesis focuses on the representation of human-altered landscape in photography. The research presents a critical review of landscape photography from its first appearance as a genre and its initial use as a means of informing and educating the public up to the influential exhibition *New Topographics: photographs of a Man-Altered Landscape* in 1975. It then examines a number of significant photography books that have deeply affected the genre, following its evolution during the last three decades. The last part analyzes my personal photographic practice at the construction sites of the *Egnatia* motorway where the personal work is contextualised and anchored within the genre of human-altered landscape photography.

The study proposes a visual journey through the human-altered landscape and attempts to articulate a personal poetic approach to a landscape in transition. The thesis further locates the development of a personal language in photography that occurs when a potential creator tries to explore those issues which concern him or her profoundly.

The study concludes that the ephemeral landscape created during the construction of the *Egnatia* Motorway will cease to exist when the project is finally opened for use. It will cease to be present or be noticed because the motorway's function will overshadow all its other features. This research represents an account of the massive changes that affected the landscape that emerged in-between, before its altered face was taken completely for granted.