

Michael Nagl Science Fiction

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With a text by Michael Nagl

Graphic design: Christine Puchner

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Growing older, I have been drawn back to the kind of landscape that I grew up in: flat scrubland, weeds, bushes, groves of small trees. There still are a few places like that around Vienna, remainders, I believed, of that mythic original landscape, reminiscent of the savanna, where humankind evolved. But soon I found asphalt beneath the grass; paving under a thin layer of moss; and those rocks, picturesquely strewn across the plain, were of reinforced concrete.

The places I photographed had been inhabited, civilized, industrialized even, and I was looking not into the past, but into the future: a gentle and romantic kind of apocalypse. The entire land will look like this, cities and villages, streets and fields, when humankind will be gone. We will not be there to see it, so I photograph it now.

Michael Nagl

The pictures are full of the peace the world needs now. [...] Will they save the planet? No, but they might rescue individuals who take time to be still in their presence.

Robert Adams, photographer