

## IWPA Application / Michaela Nagyidaiová

### Where the Wildflowers Grow project / Applying for a FREE THEME

#### *Project Description:*

During the Greek Civil War (1946-1949), thousands of families were separated from each other and their homeland. In a governmental effort that was allegedly implemented to ensure the safety of minors, children aged three to fourteen were evacuated to countries in Eastern Europe. They became isolated from their families and homes and once the war was over, some children were never repatriated to their native environments.

*Where the Wildflowers Grow* portrays a site, where the past continues to play a significant role in shaping its current state and atmosphere. This place is also the birthplace of a part of my family, which was forced to leave their home, and never returned. The work is a journey through their homeland, showing the ongoing impact of an event that occurred more than seventy years ago.

It documents a landscape that was both affected but also historically significant during the Greek Civil War. Voluntary and forced migrations took place from the site throughout and after the conflict, slowly causing the present-day village to be almost uninhabited. Delving into the history of the environment and showing the remnants of past events, the project captures the complexity behind the notion of home.

#### **Bio:**

Michaela Nagyidaiová (\*1996, Bratislava) is a documentary photographer based between London and Bratislava. Due to her interest in personal stories and projects, she often works with themes that rethink the notions of home, migration, the aftermath of conflicts and family roots.

The work she photographs examines historically significant sites or landscapes that have over time become forgotten or hidden in our contemporary life. This way, the intention is to revive the histories, discuss them and relate them to our present-day issues.

Michaela's work is frequently a combination of documentary photography, archival imagery, text or video elements. The ongoing theme, she has been working on looks into the effects of the Greek Civil War, which took place from 1946-1949 and impacted a large number of individuals, including her family members. It also delves into the influence that the conflict continues to have even today.