

Thea Mihi is a creative professional interested primarily in photography, interdisciplinary research and design concerning the current state of the urban environment, with all that it entails: customs, social patterns, history and political policies.

Thea is a registered junior architect in Germany. She holds a graduate degree in architecture from University of Stuttgart and prior to her graduation, she was part of multiple social projects in Europe, working with and for unprivileged communities and refugees children. Photography was always used as a tool to engage with local communities, especially children. She is a big believer in the power of mobile photography. Most photographs were taken with a mobile phone. What at first started as a necessity, quickly transformed into a useful tool: a phone is light, easy to handle, and most importantly, people welcome it. When making a portrait, for example, people often become very self-conscious. You risk losing a connection you so carefully pinned down. They understand your tool and don't feel threatened by it. They allow you to see their authentic self. They allow you to be part of their moment, their life and do not perform a rehearsed act.

### **Legacies | Romanias Dancing Bears - a timeless autograph**

**Location: Comănești, Romania; 30 December 2020**

It's a story of rebirth for the new year.

In Romania's eastern Moldova region, rich in traditions and ancient customs, the arrival of the bears - actually locals wearing real bearskins - is a time of celebration. Villagers dress themselves in bear skins, in order to dance and drive away evil spirits. 62 bears and baby bears dance to drums and whistles, played by a bear tamer. They seem to be in a permanent osmosis with everything around them, as they go through the streets. It is a vivid legacy other generations kept alive for us.