

1 THE ABSENCE OF MYTH

TEREZA ZELENKOVA

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Elusive and incomprehensible, Tereza Zelenkova's *The Absence of Myth* draws inspiration from some rather weighty archaic literature. Nods to Freud and Rimbaud sit alongside big chunks of Bataille poems in this storm grey paperback, published to accompany the photographer's exhibition at East London's Legion TV gallery. For a young photographer, recently graduated from the Royal College of Art's MA program, her work is certainly anachronistic. Her photographs are similarly difficult to grapple with, leaving no easy access point for the viewer. Moody, monochrome pictures of ancient sculptures "reminiscent of cadavers" are obscured from view by tape-bound packaging and ruffled dust sheets. Likewise, the "sense of profound dead-endness" described by Daniel C. Blight in the publication's opening text is exhibited throughout the book in an array of visual barriers — from giant coastal rocks to the dense foliage of an orange tree. Both infuriating and intriguing at the same time; perhaps it is in this aloof unintelligibility that the allure of *The Absence of Myth* lies.