

# BECOMING ACQUAINTED WITH JERUSALEM

PHOTOGRAPHS 1857–1900



The Seweryn Udziela  
Ethnographic Museum in Krakow



Jewish Culture Festival  
in Krakow

*Porta de Damas*

Raw, powerful, and authentic – the photographs from the antique collection of Abraham Madeisker create an obscure tale told by many voices, the authors of which are Félix Bonfils, Tancredè Dumas, Francis Firth, Frank Mason Good, James Robertson, C. and G. Zagaki, as well as photographers of the American Colony. The images presented in the exhibition are 19th century pictures of Jerusalem, mostly comprising albuminous photographs. They serve not only as a testament to the development of photography at that time, but moreover are a permanent reminder of Jerusalem used to look like. Nowadays, those traces are hidden under the fabric of the city, yet these photographs uncover a whole new dimension.

The seemingly distant and unreal world of the photographs opens up before the viewer, inviting onlookers to start a personal relationship with Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is a stone-constructed city built in a desert which has played host to a tempestuous history lasting around three thousand years. At the same time, it is an imagined object functioning as myth, fantasy and symbol in the minds of many. Every one of us has a personal image of Jerusalem, which in the exhibition collides with the pictures supplied by 19th century photographers. Their pictures exclaim a rawness whose predatory authenticity, seeming stability and void are astonishing. One can notice Jerusalem “under the skin”, parts which are not perceived everyday. Every one of these photographs reveals more and more layers and surprises the longer they are looked at; with further contemplation, the images, along with a juxtaposed sense of modernity, become full of new meaning and life. The fabric of the exhibition creates a subjectively-composed set of photographs alongside a selection of texts, providing motivation for further reading and deeper reflection. The trail of the photographs and course taken by the texts run independently of each other, they cross over and pass by, creating tension and new fields for interpretation. Thus, the exhibition is a proposal to see Jerusalem again: both the real and imaginary.

Exhibition prepared as part of the  
20th Jewish Culture Festival

June 27th 2010  
until November 28th 2010

The Seweryn Udziela  
Ethnographic Museum in Krakow  
ul. Krakowska 46  
tel. (012) 430 63 42

Opening hours:

Mon	closed
Tue	11.00–19.00
Wed	11.00–19.00
Thu	11.00–21.00
Fri	11.00–19.00
Sat	11.00–19.00
Sun	11.00–15.00

Tickets:  
regular – 7 PLN  
reduced – 4 PLN

[www.etnomuzeum.eu](http://www.etnomuzeum.eu)