

ACCOMPANYING MATERIAL

AM.1 DESERT

K. Yoland

Desert-mapping: Site-specific modes of resistance to territoriality and colonisation

Submitted for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
School of Arts and Humanities, Royal College of Art
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Mojave Desert, 2022 © K.Yoland

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* (all three deserts)

NOTE TO READER:

The document 'AM.4 Desert' includes supplementary images of encounters within the Great Basin, Mojave, and Chihuahuan Deserts. These images support the thesis, 'Desert-mapping: Site-specific Modes of Resistance to Territoriality and Colonisation'.

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GREAT BASIN DESERT_____



Dust storm, Great Basin Desert, Nevada, 2022 © K.Yoland



Great Basin Desert, Nevada, 2022 © K.Yoland





Mini Mart sign, Great Basin Desert, Nevada, 2022 © K.Yoland





Great Basin Desert, Nevada, 2022 © K.Yoland





North of Reno, Great Basin Desert, Nevada, 2022 © K.Yoland

I am grateful to William L. Fox, who drove me to parts north of Reno, Nevada. Fox is director of The Center for Art + Environment at The Nevada Museum of Art. The museum “acknowledges the traditional homelands of the **Waší · šiw** (Washoe), **Numu** (Northern Paiute), **Newe** (Western Shoshone), and **Nuwu** (Southern Paiute) people of the Great Basin. This includes the 28 Tribal Nations that exist as sovereign nations and continue as stewards of this land.” <https://www.nevadaart.org/visit/about-the-museum/>



North of Reno, Great Basin Desert, Nevada, 2022 © K.Yoland



Private land between the city of Parhump and Death Valley Park, Mojave Desert 2022 © K.Yoland



DEATH VALLEY (MOJAVE DESERT)_____

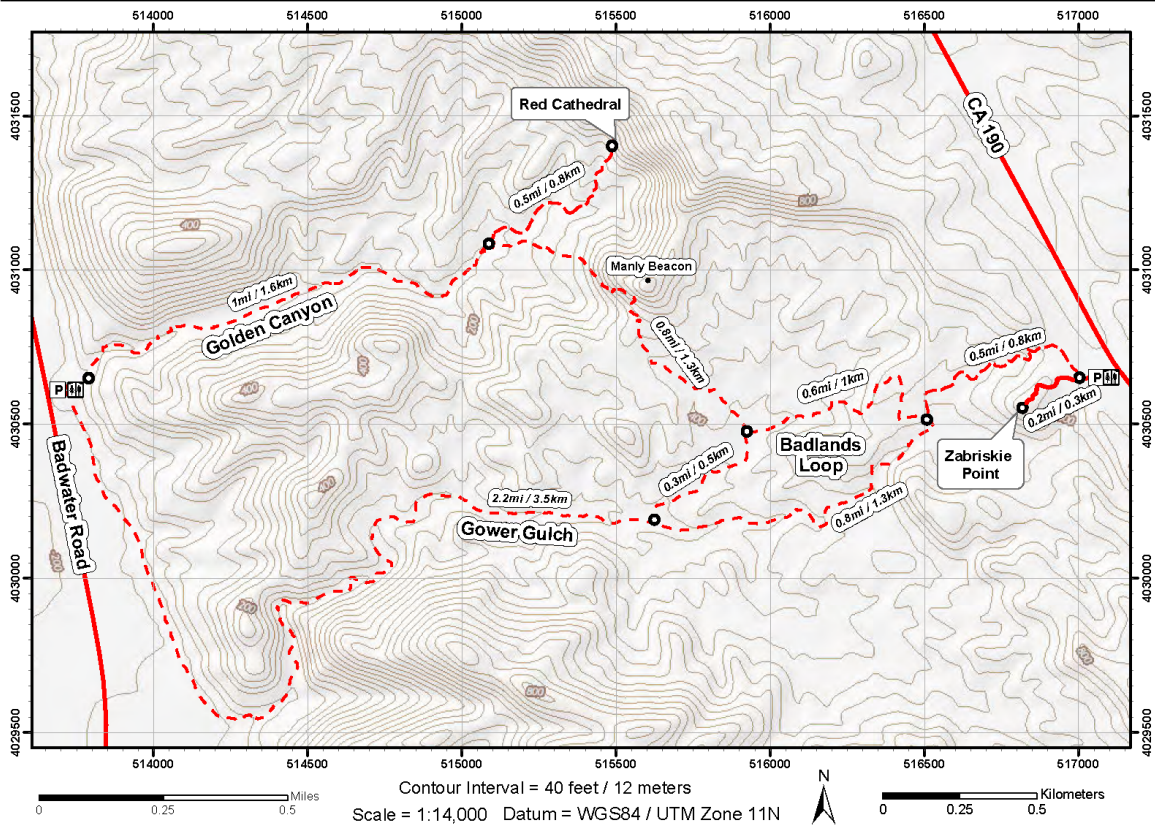


Badwater Salt Flat, Death Valley, 2022 © K.Yoland

“Badwater Basin is the lowest point in North America at 282 ft (86 m) below sea level. The salt flats here cover nearly 200 square miles (518 square km), and are composed mostly of sodium chloride (table salt), along with calcite, gypsum, and borax.” <https://www.nps.gov/places/badwater-basin.htm>

Golden Canyon, Gower Gulch, & Badlands

Death Valley National Park
California / Nevada



Topographic map and route description for the Golden Canyon Area NPS.



Zabriskie Point, Death Valley, 2022 © K.Yoland

Several films have been shot at Zabriskie Point - these films and others made in Death Valley are documented at the National Park website: <https://www.nps.gov/deva/learn/historyculture/death-valley-in-movies-and-television.htm>.

For more on films in the Mojave Desert in general see: Jeffrey Burbank, "The Technicolor Desert: Cinema and the Mojave" in The Mojave Project, December 2019, <https://mojaveproject.org/dispatches-item/the-technicolor-desert-cinema-and-the-mojave/>.



North of and parallel to Badwater road, Death Valley, 2022 © K.Yoland





Mosaic Canyon, Death Valley, 2022 © K.Yoland





Death Valley, 2022 © K.Yoland





Far edge of the Salt Creek, Death Valley, 2022 © K.Yoland



Near Zabriskie Point, Death Valley, 2022 © K.Yoland

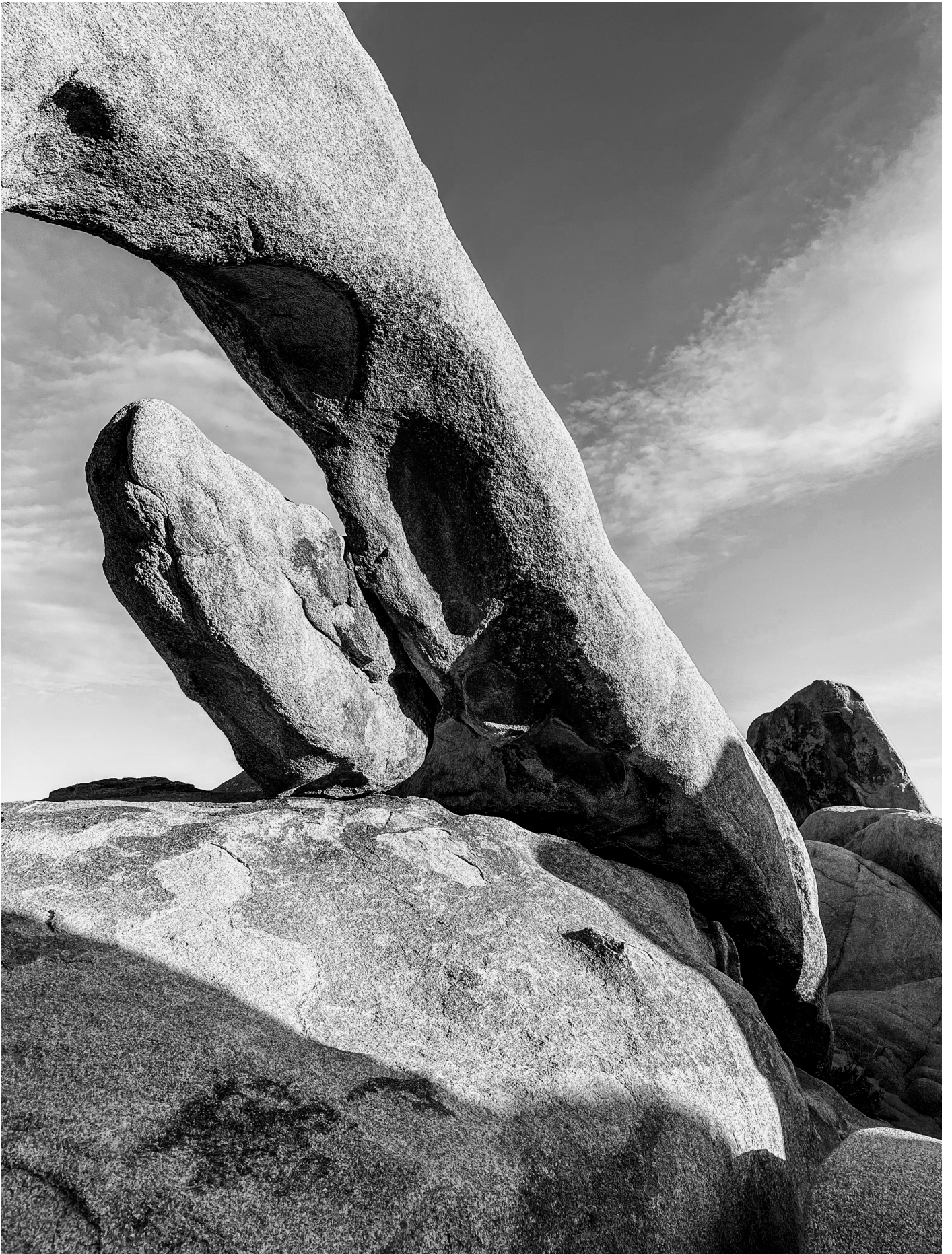


Gower Gulch Loop, Death Valley, 2022 © K.Yoland



Devils Golf Course, Death Valley, 2022 © K.Yoland

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK_____



Arch Rock, Joshua Tree National Park, California, 2022 © K.Yoland



Holes in rocks and boulders, Joshua Tree National Park, California, 2022 © K.Yoland





Next to the Cholla Cactus Garden, Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland





Horse trough, Barker Dam Trail, Joshua Tree National Park, California, 2022 © K.Yoland





Trail towards Fortynine Palms Oasis, Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland



Note on previous page:

There is another oasis (which I was unable to visit) in Joshua Tree National Park called Oasis of Mara, which was home to the Serrano people: “Early American survey parties arrived at the Oasis of Mara in the 1850s and found the area under cultivation by the Serrano. Corn, beans, pumpkins, and squash were all grown with the life-giving waters that rise at the oasis along the Pinto Mountain Fault. The Chemehuevi settled at the Oasis in 1867 and intermingled peacefully with the Serrano.” <https://www.nps.gov/jotr/learn/historyculture/mara.htm>

Also see the history of Twenty Nine Palms Band of Mission Indian: “The Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians are a Chemehuevi people who are a federally recognized tribe whose reservation is located near the city of Twentynine Palms and the city of Coachella, California. They are Chemehuevi people who inhabited the desert area of the Oasis of Mara (Mar’rah) in the vicinity of today’s Joshua Tree National Park.” <https://www.29palmstribes.org/about/tribal-history/>

Also see: Clifford E. Trafzer, *A Chemehuevi Song: The Resilience of a Southern Paiute Tribe* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2015).

AMBOY CRATER



Amboy Crater, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland



Amboy Crater, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland





Amboy Crater, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland

Quote from The Bureau of Land Management information page:

“Please Be Advised:

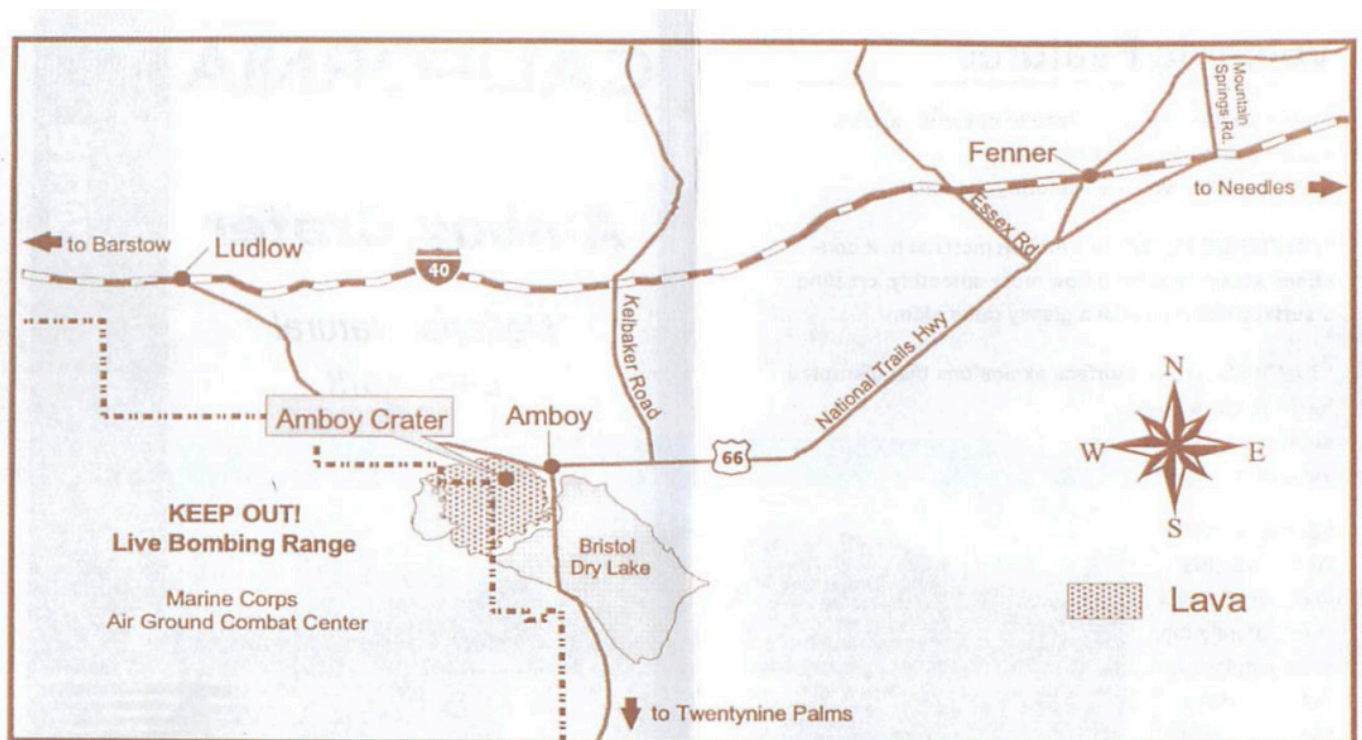
Military explosives can be found most anywhere in the desert. Large areas of the desert were and still are used for bombing ranges and maneuvers by the U.S. Armed Forces. There may be unexploded devices that can cause serious bodily injury or death if handled. Report any such devices to the FICC at toll free (888) xxx or call xxx.

The Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center borders Amboy Crater to the west. This is a live bombing range. Do NOT enter the bombing range!”

<https://npshistory.com/brochures/blm/ca/amboy-crater-nnl-2007.pdf>



Amboy Crater, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland



Bureau of Land Management information leaflet.



Amboy Crater, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland

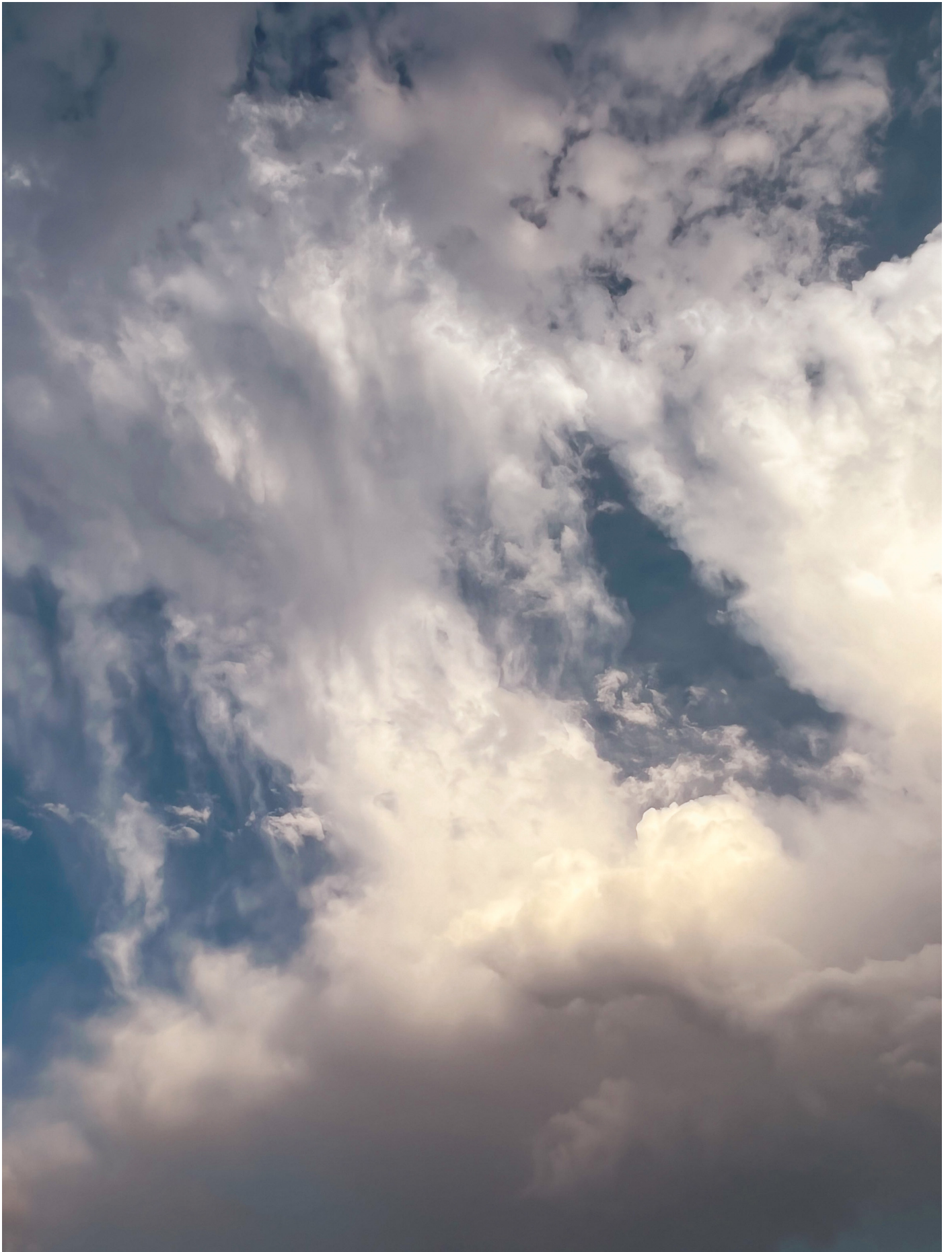




Amboy Crater, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland



CHIHUAHUAN DESERT_____



Looking upwards on the road to Pinto canyon, Chihuahuan Desert, West Texas, 2022 © K.Yoland



Archive image: Travelling straight lines, Chihuahuan Desert, West Texas, 2012 © K.Yoland

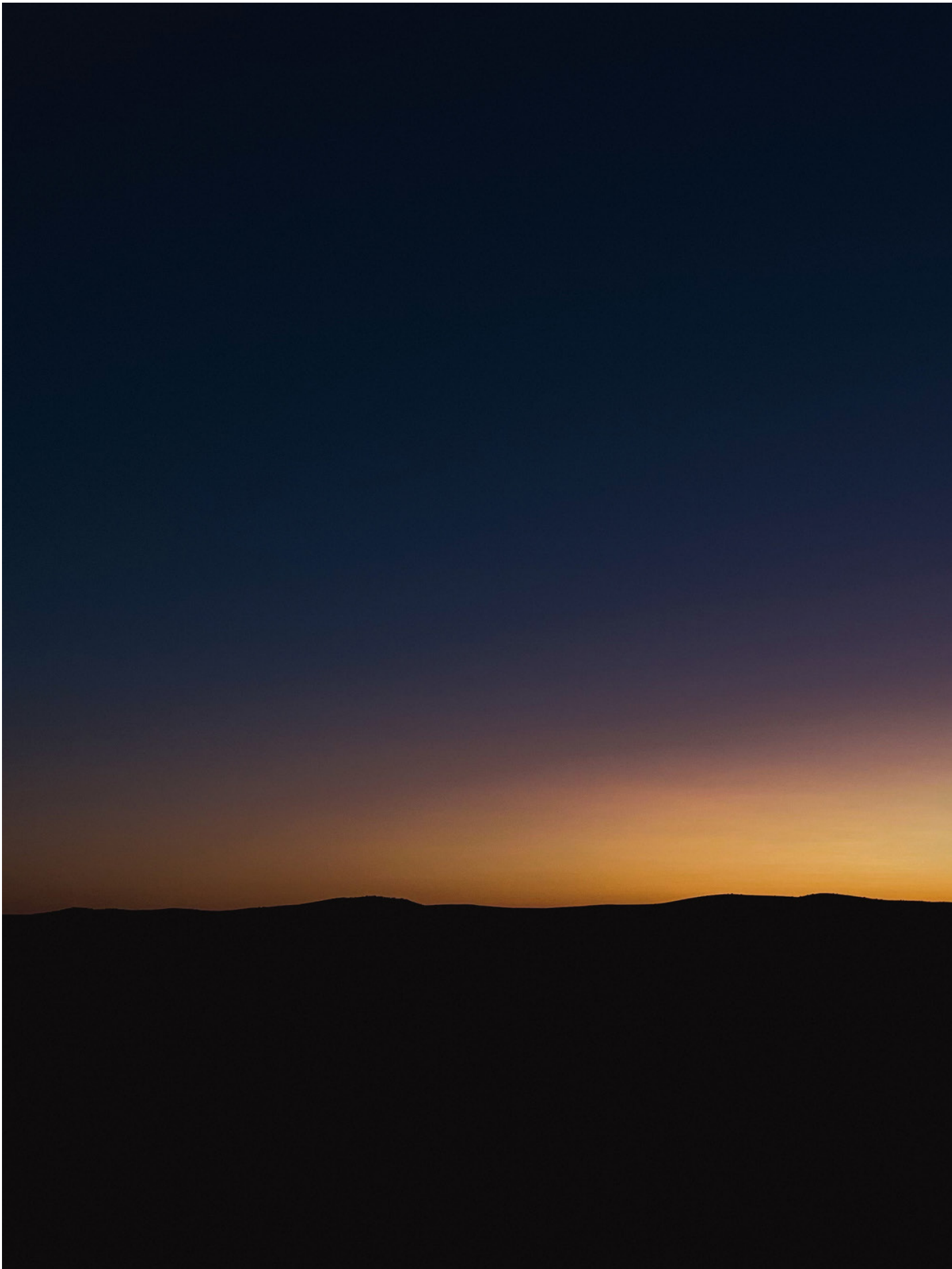




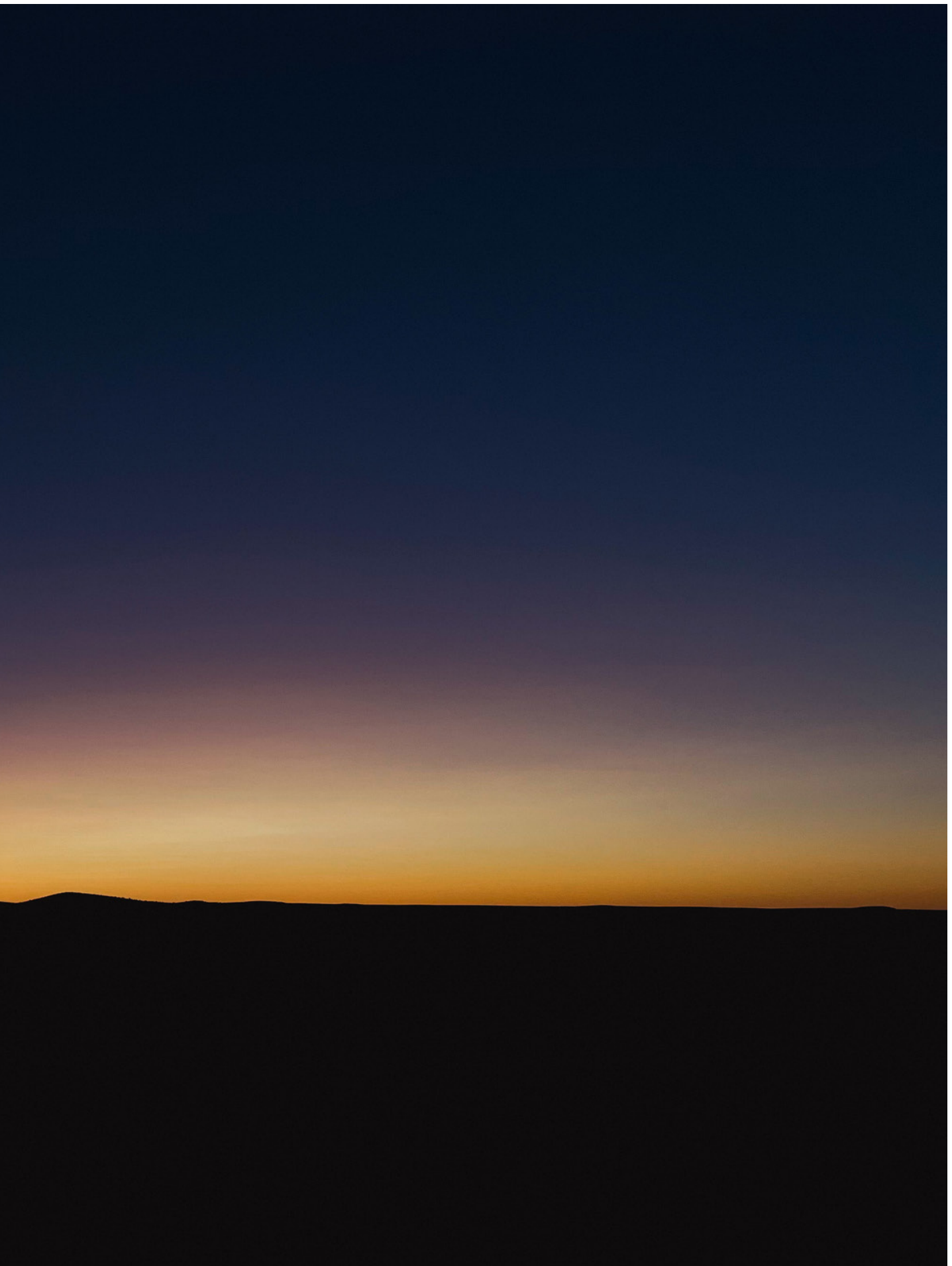
Archive image: View south from the top of Point of Rocks, U.S./Mexico border on horizon, Chihuahuan Desert,



West Texas, 2012 © K.Yoland



Road to Pinto canyon, Chihuahuan Desert, West Texas, 2022 © K.Yoland



INDUSTRY EXAMPLES



Archive work: National Chloride Company of America, near Amboy, Mojave Desert, California, 2012 © K.Yoland





Archive work: National Chloride Company of America, near Amboy, Mojave Desert, California, 2012 © K.Yoland





Archive work: National Chloride Company of America, near Amboy, Mojave Desert, California, 2012 © K.Yoland





Facing south towards the border, edge of Marfa, Chihu



Chihuahuan Desert, West Texas, 2022 © K.Yoland



Archive image: Oil rig near Midland-Odessa, Chihuahuan Desert, West Texas, 2013 © K.Yoland





Archive image: Oil rig site near Midland-Odessa, Chihuahuan Desert, West Texas, 2013 © K.Yoland



MILITARY



Twentynine Palms City (close to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms Base), Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland



This image and next: Twentynine Palms City (close to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms Base), Mojave Desert, California, 2022





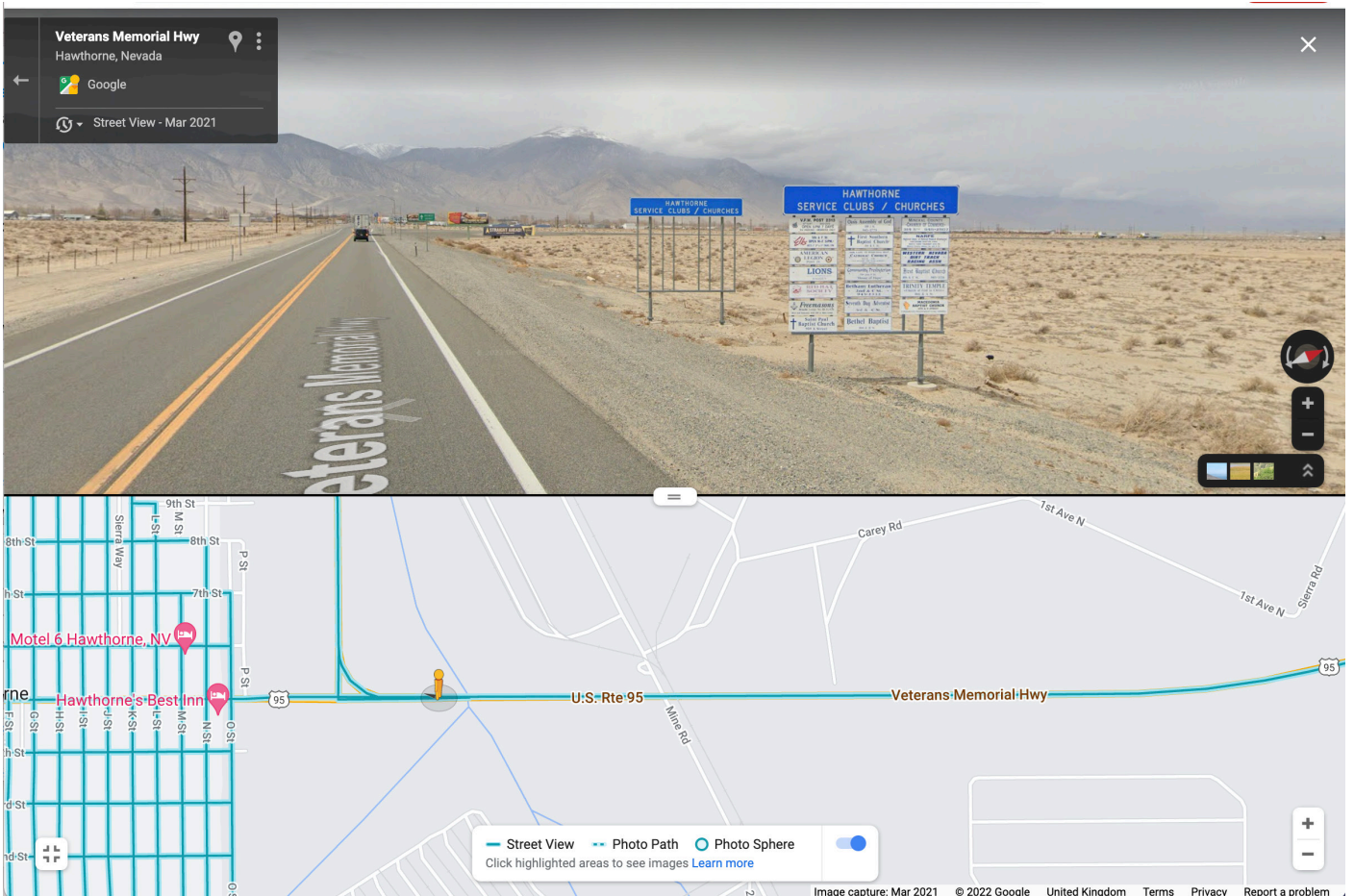
View of Twentynine Palms City and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms Base, Mojave Desert
https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Buffer_Fact_Sheets/Marine%20Corps/MCAGCCTwentyninePalms.p



Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland
[df](#)

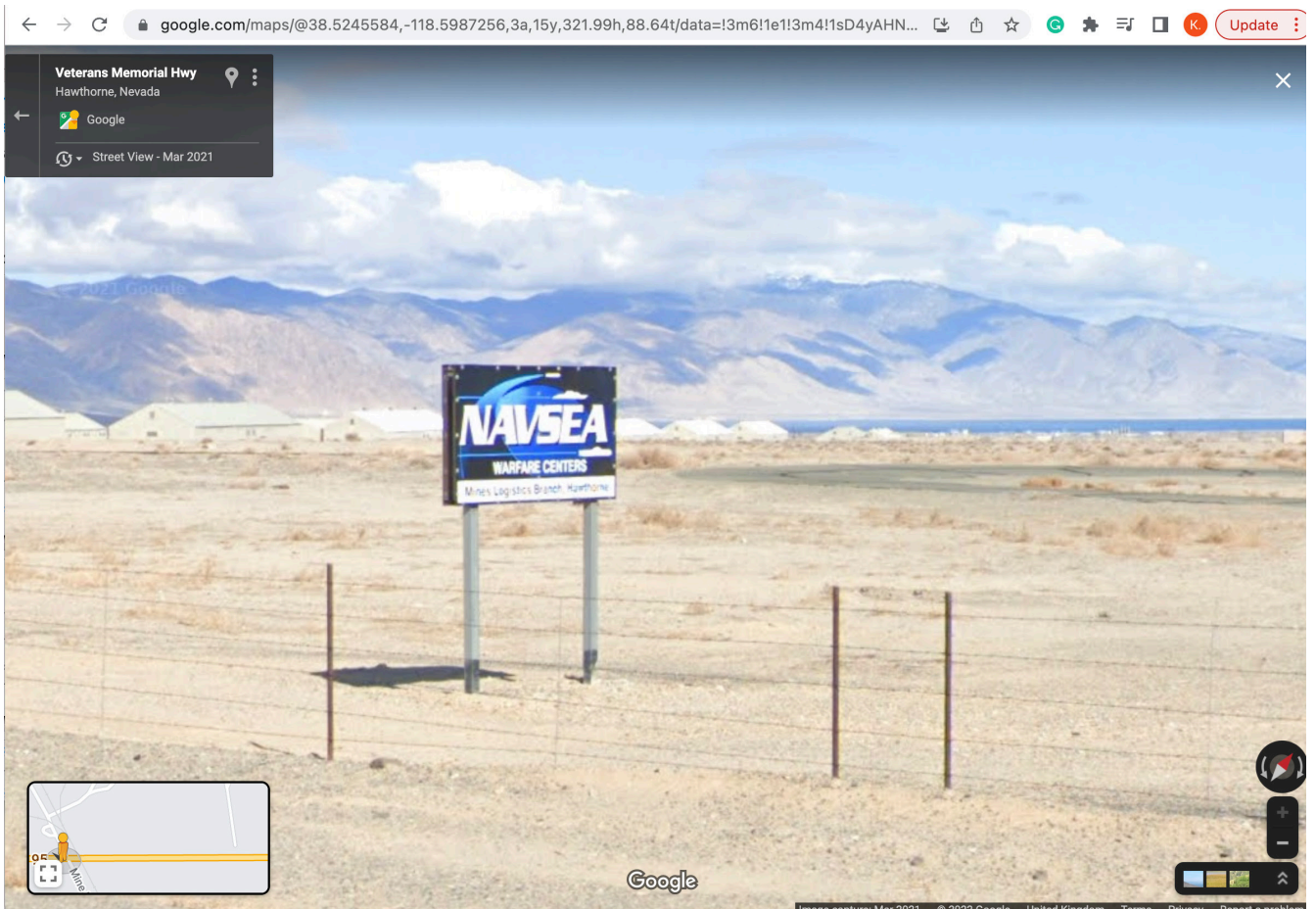


Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) restricted zone, Hawthorne, Great Basin Desert, Nevada, 2022. Images (top left and right) © K.Yoland.





“The largest of the Navy’s five systems commands, the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) engineers build and support America’s Fleet of ships and combat systems. Accounting for nearly one-fifth of the Navy’s budget, NAVSEA manages more than 150 acquisition programs and has more than 75,000 civilian and military employees at 33 activities in 16 states.” [*Link*](#)





Archive image: Tethered Aerostat Radar System (TARS -- border surveillance blimp for monitoring the U.S.-M



(Mexico border,) Chihuahuan Desert, West Texas, 2012 © K.Yoland

HUMAN: VARIOUS TRACES_____



Chalk games, Chihuahuan Desert, West Texas, 2022 © K.Yoland



Building waste, Chihuahuan Desert, West Texas, 2022 © K.Yoland



Adobe bricks, Chihuahuan Desert, West Texas, 2022 © K.Yoland



Archive image: Ruined building, Kent, Chihuahuan Desert, West Texas, 2012 © K.Yoland





Archive image: Ruins on site near Kent, Chihuahuan Desert, West Texas, 2012 © K.Yoland





Archive image: Abandoned house near Kent, Chihuahuan Desert, West Texas, 2012 © K.Yoland





Archive image: Car parts, Presidio, U.S/Mexico border, Chihuahuan Desert, West Texas, 2012 © K.Yoland





Noah Purifoy, “Toilet Bowl Sculpture”, 1996. The work is inside Purifoy’s ten acre Outdoor Desert Art Museum of Assemblage Sculpture, housing over 100 works, created 1989–2004, preserved by the Noah Purifoy Foundation (NPF), Joshua Tree, Mojave Desert, California. Photo: © K.Yoland 2022

See also: Ismail Muhammad, “Artist Noah Purifoy saw value in the discarded. What if L.A. didn’t throw people away?” LA Times, May 26, 2021, <https://www.latimes.com/lifestyle/image/story/2021-05-26/remembering-noah-purifoy-and-his-art-of-the-disposable>

Acknowledgements:

“It is crucial to acknowledge the ancestral, cultural, and unseated territory of the Serrano people. Historically, these indigenous people thrived in the San Bernardino Mountains and the southern Mojave Desert of California. The Noah Purifoy Outdoor Museum of Assemblage Art, a testament to human creativity is situated in the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians area, known by its traditional name Yuhaviatem (yu-hay-vee-a-tam) or “People of the Pines”. We deeply respect and honor their elders and celebrate their current vitality and that of their future generations.” <https://www.noahpurifoy.com/>



Noah Purifoy, detail from the Outdoor Desert Art Museum of Assemblage Sculpture. Photo: © K.Yoland 2022



Rachel Whiteread, Shack II, 2016, Mojave Desert, California. Photo © K.Yoland 2022



Rachel Whiteread, Shack II, Mojave Desert, 2016, Mojave Desert, California. Photo © K.Yoland 2022



Jack Pierson, *The End Of The World*, 2022, permanent installation, an installation project with High Desert Test Sites (HDS), Mojave Desert, California. Photo: © K.Yoland 2022 <https://www.hdts.site/permanent-installations>



Jack Pierson, *The End Of The World*, 2022, permanent installation, an installation project with High Desert Test Sites (HDTs), Mojave Desert, California. Photo: © K.Yoland 2022



Shopping trolley in Yucca Valley, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland





This and next image: Road from Reno to Pyramid Lake, Great Basin Desert, 2022 © K.Yoland.



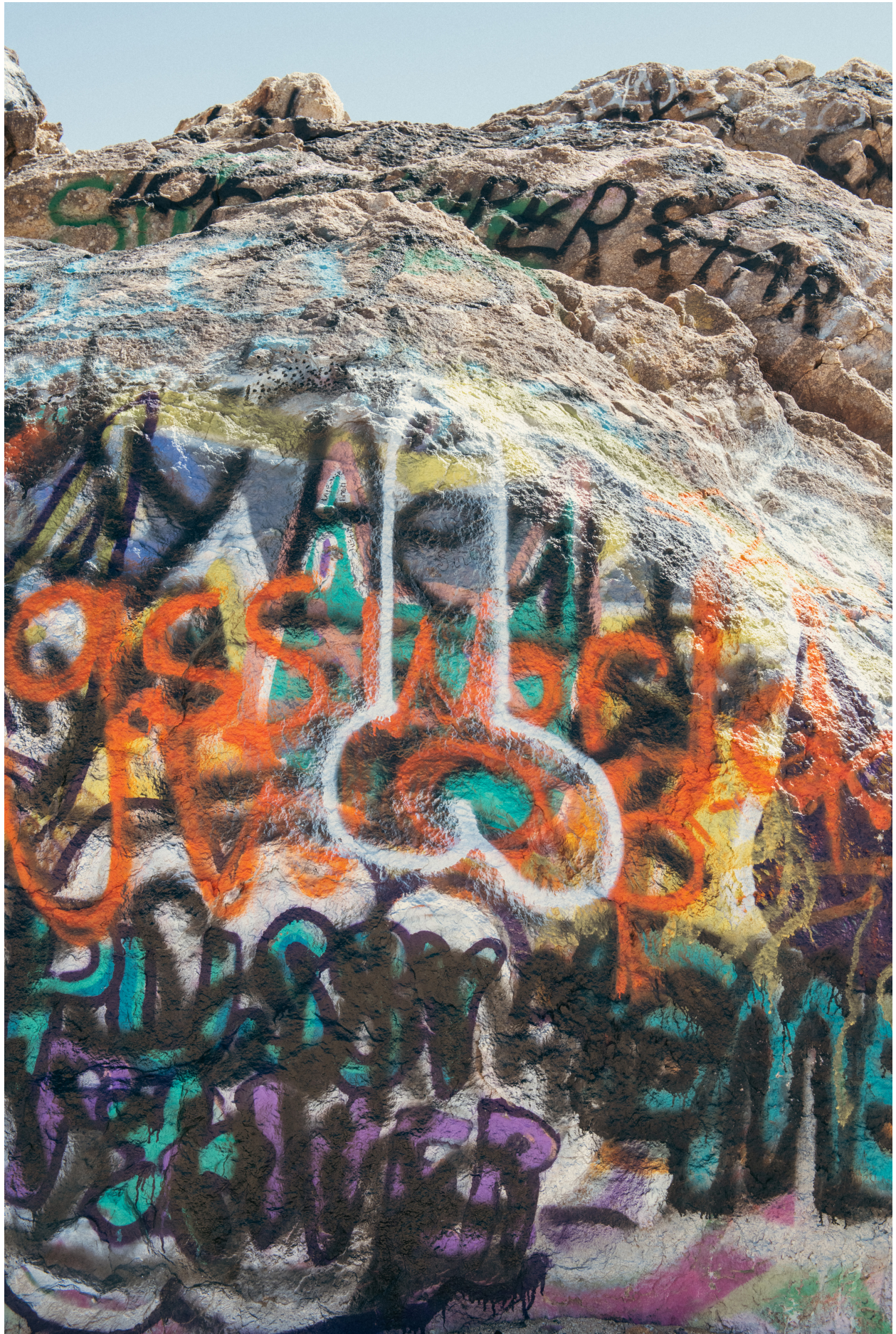


This and next two images: Road to Amboy, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland





Graffiti "Kill all Nazis", road to Amboy, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland



Graffiti with penis, road to Amboy, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland



Desert Christ Park, Yucca Valley, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland



Desert Christ Park, Yucca Valley, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland



Salvation Mountain, the project and art sculpture of Leonard Knight, Beal Rd, Niland, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland

“In late 1989, Knight began to build his second mountain. He had been experimenting with the native adobe clay and had been using it on other parts of the mountain. So, this time he built it solely with adobe clay and straw, which made the mountain stronger and completely solid. This second effort resulted in the current Salvation Mountain, which stands approximately three stories high.

The decorative folk art is the product of a generous layer of paint, estimated at more than ten coats, that acts as an additional hardener, protecting the mountain from cracking. Knight only accepts donations in the form of paint, and the site probably contains over 100,000 gallons of paint that have been donated by visitors and supporters. The mountain is decorated in colorful flowers, waterfalls, birds, and numerous Bible verses and spiritual messages.” <https://salvationmountain.org/about-salvation-mountain/>



Salvation Mountain, the project and art sculpture of Leonard Knight, Beal Rd, Niland, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland



This and next image: Salvation Mountain, the project and art sculpture of Leonard Knight, Beal Rd, Niland, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland





This and next image: The Hogan (bales of straw, adobe, and paint) at Salvation Mountain, the project and art sculpture of Leonard Knight, Beal Rd, Niland, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland



ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITIES_____



View from the edge of Bombay Beach Community, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland





The head and torso of a woman (mannequin) on the legs of a child (mannequin), sitting on a truck bed with an American flag above, Bombay Beach Community, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K. Yoland.



Old cars at the Bombay Beach Drive-in, Bombay Community, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland



Bombay Community, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland



Bombay Community, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland



View from the edge of Slab City, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland





Slab City, Mojave Desert, California, (video still) 2022 © K.Yoland





Proud Vietnam Veteran, Slab City, Mojave Desert, California, (video still) 2022 © K.Yoland





If you can read this thank a teacher, if you can read this in English thank your military, Slab City, Mojave Desert



, California, (video still) 2022 © K.Yoland



Slab City Olympics, Mojave Desert, California, (video still) 2022 © K.Yoland



Spells and Curses, Mojave Desert, California, (video still) 2022 © K.Yoland



Entrance to communal initiative between Joshua Tree and Twentynine Palms, Mojave Desert, California, 2022





Home and communal initiative between Joshua Tree and Twentynine Palms, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland



Home and communal initiative between Joshua Tree and Twentynine Palms, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland



Home and communal initiative between Joshua Tree and Twentynine Palms, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland



Home and communal initiative between Joshua Tree and Twentynine Palms, Mojave Desert, California, 2022 © K.Yoland

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Accompanying documentation for the thesis, 'Desert-mapping:
Site-specific modes of resistance to territoriality and colonisation'.