



Greetings from
WEST TEXAS

HERE ARE SOME OBSERVATIONS
FROM A 5,000-MILE MOTORCYCLE
TRIP IN MAY OF 2019.



Photo & Words
by AUSTIN LONG



Greetings from
BIOSPHERE 2

DESPITE ONGOING TECHNICAL CHALLENGES & INTERPERSONAL CONFLICTS, THE ORIGINAL BIOSPHERIANS CONTINUED TO WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP THEIR DELICATE ENVIRONMENT IN BALANCE. THEY WERE ACUTELY AWARE OF THEIR VULNERABILITY AS MEMBERS OF THE INTER-DEPENDENT LIFE SYSTEM IN WHICH THEY WERE ALL TRAPPED.

Photo & Words
by AUSTIN LONG



Greetings from
CACTUS FOREST [BLM], ARIZONA

THE CONCEPT OF 'PUBLIC LANDS' IS A WEIRD OUTPOST OF SOCIAL OWNERSHIP IN A COUNTRY OTHERWISE DOMINATED BY PRIVATE PROPERTY INTERESTS. TO CAMP ON PUBLIC LAND, ALL YOU DO IS FIND A 'BLM' OR 'WILDERNESS' AREA ON YOUR MAP, FOLLOW DIRT ROADS & TRAILS TO GET THERE, PICK A NICE-LOOKING SPOT AND SET UP CAMP. AT FIRST, IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING WRONG — THERE ARE NO FEES, NO AMENITIES AND NO SUPERVISION. IT'S JUST YOU ALONE WITH THE THINGS YOU BROUGHT, YOUR CAMPFIRE AND THE WILDERNESS.

Photo & Words
by AUSTIN LONG



Greetings from
WHITE SANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

AS FAR AS I COULD SEE, THERE WAS
NOTHING BUT WHITE SAND & BLUE SKY.
THEN, IN THE DISTANCE, I THOUGHT I
SAW A TREE TOP. SO I LEFT THE MARKED
TRAIL & TRAVELED ACROSS A DOZEN
OR SO DUNES FOR A CLOSER LOOK.
INSTEAD OF A TREE, WHAT I FOUND WAS
THIS STUBBORN BUSH WHOSE ROOT
SYSTEM HAD, OVER TIME, COMPACTED
THE SAND BEINGEATH IT. WHILE THE
LOOSER SANDS THAT SURROUNDED THE
BUSH BLEW AWAY AND FORMED NEW
DUNES, THE FIRMLY PLANTED BUSH
TRANSFORMED ITSELF INTO AN
IMMOVABLE, 40-FOOT TALL MONOLITH
WAY OUT THERE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.

Photo & Words
by AUSTIN LONG



Saludos desde
LA FRONTERA

¿QUÉ PASARÍA SI TODOS PUDIERAN
IR Y VENIR COMO QUIERAN?

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF EVERYONE
COULD COME & GO AS THEY PLEASE?

Foto & Palabras
de AUSTIN LONG



Greetings from
MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

EARLIER THAT DAY, RANGER RICK (NO RELATION) HAD MET WITH DESCENDENTS OF THE ANCESTRAL PUEBLOANS —THE PEOPLE WHO HAD BUILT & INHABITED THE CLIFF DWELLINGS OF MESA VERDE THROUGHOUT THE 1200s. SOMETIME TOWARDS THE END OF THAT CENTURY, THE PUEBLOANS ABRUPTLY LEFT. CONTEMPORARY ANTHROPOLOGISTS HAVE THEORIZED THAT THE SETTLEMENTS WERE ABANDONED DUE TO A SUCCESSION OF BAD HARVESTS OR ONGOING CONFLICTS WITH NEIGHBORING TRIBES. WHEN RICK ASKED THE ELTERS ABOUT THEIR UNDERSTANDING AS TO WHY THEIR ANCESTORS HAD LEFT, THEY JUST SAID: "IT WAS TIME TO GO"

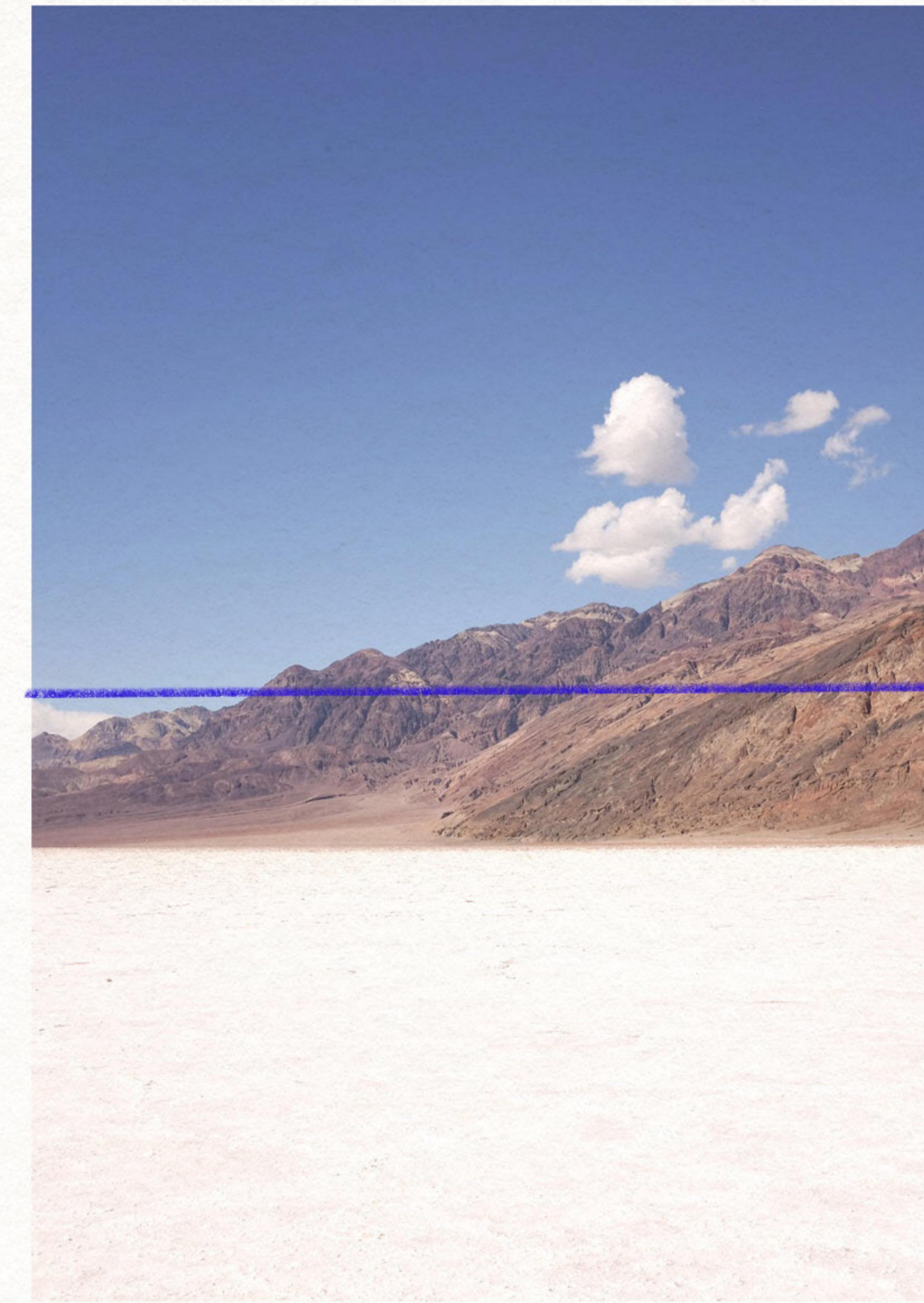
Photo & Words
by AUSTIN LONG



Greetings from
ARCHES NATIONAL PARK

EVERY ARCH AT THE APTLY-NAMED
'ARCHES NATIONAL PARK' IS IN THE
PROCESS OF COLLAPSING. FORTUNATELY,
FOR THE PEOPLE IN THIS PHOTO,
EROSION TAKES PLACE ON A MUCH
LONGER TIMELINE THAN PEOPLE DO.

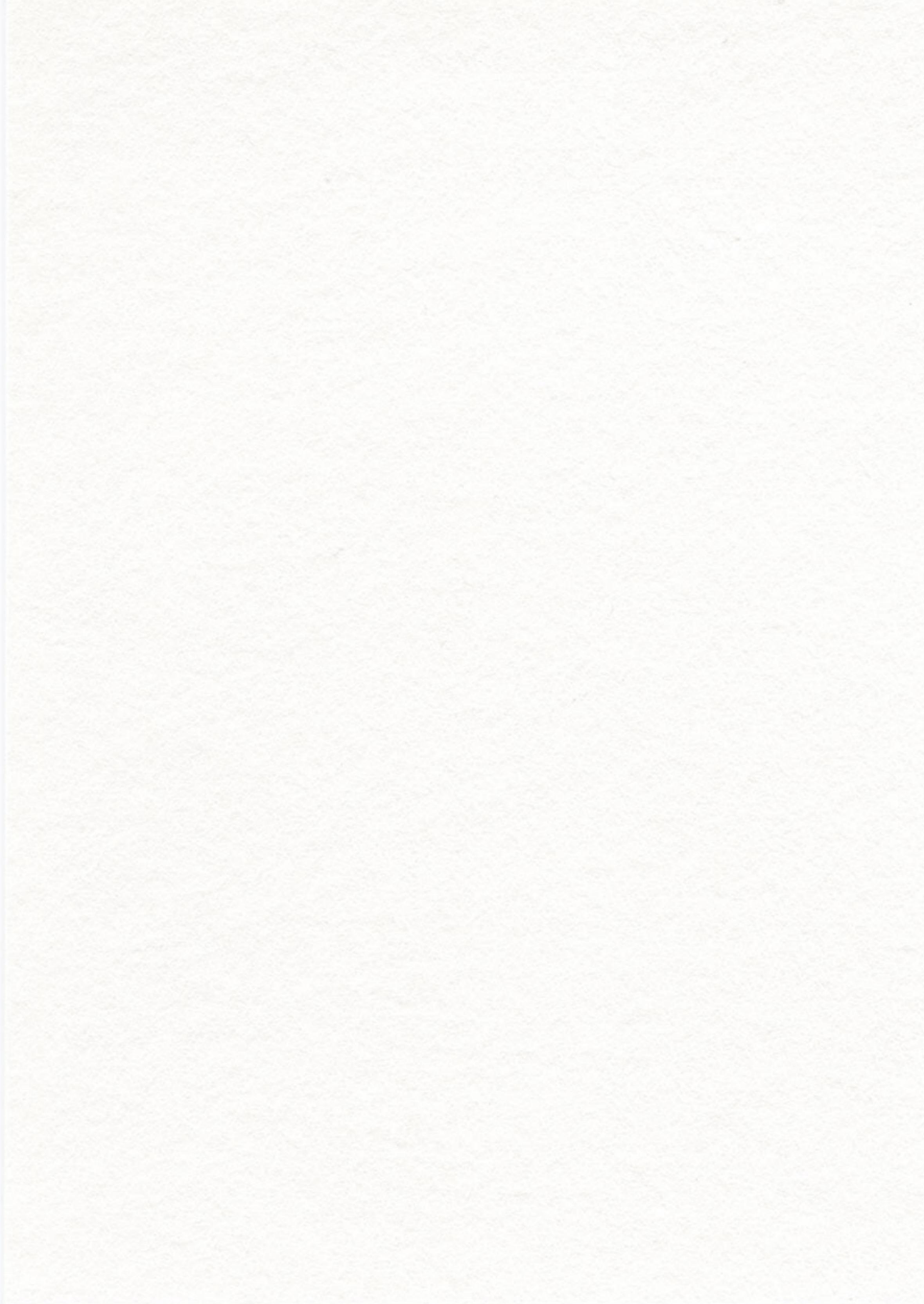
Photo & Words
by AUSTIN LONG



Greetings from
DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

150,000 YEARS AGO, THIS WAS A LAKE.

Photo & Words
by AUSTIN LONG



Greetings from
THE END

THANKS FOR READING!



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