

naïve murals of cosmonauts, rockets, and shooting stars rendered in clumsy brushstrokes, and brightly colored theater props of flags and more rockets. Perhaps the most iconic image in the entire series is a statute of a female nude perched contrapposto atop a cylindrical base overlooking a hazy gray lake that merges with the sky. At first glance, the figure looks like a classical ruin, but the romance is undermined at a closer viewing, when the statue's leg is revealed to be a rusted metal rod protruding from a crumbling concrete base.

The Aral Sea section is the most spare. Landscapes predominate. The book closes with a series of images of the barren former seabed, exposed by decades of irrigation and left toxic by pollution and remnant salt. The cemetery image provides a kind of hinge between the human and environmental themes in *Dust*. In closing the book, Kander writes: "I wonder how the ruins we see here on these pages will speak to future generations." It is an oddly optimistic thought—that there will even be future generations—given what he documents in *Dust*. In an interview following the opening of his New York exhibition,

it's the secrecy. I think finding out that a satellite has photographed cities that have never been seen on the map before is incredibly enticing. It had everything that I'm about written all over it. This idea of man altered landscapes, ruins in landscape, of landscapes telling us about our memories, showing us our memory. Showing us possibly more about our humanity than human beings show."

Nadav Kander's series of photographs of de-mapped nuclear sites in Kazakhstan, called *Dust*, helps make visible the physical and temporal destruction of the former Soviet military's presence in the region. Set in the towns of Kurchatov and Priozersk, the Polygon testing site, and the poisoned Aral Sea, the series serves an archeological function, bringing to the surface a history that its perpetrators tried to keep buried. The towns served as centers for nuclear testing and missile development, and the population of Kurchatov was secretly monitored to measure the effects radiation on humans. Kander first came to the sites the way many of us visit exotic places, briefly from our desktops via Google Earth. Cordoned off from by

