

Taking a closer look at the land of de-mapped

nuclear test sites around the world.

adav 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

radiation on humans. Kander first came to the sites the way many us of visit exotic places, briefly from our desktops via Google Earth. Cordoned off from by the Russian and Kazakh militaries since at least the early 1990s, these places show the now intertwined legacies of entropy and abandonment. Equipped with a radiation suit and a Geiger counter, Kander sought to capture through film and digital photography what satellite imagery could only begin to suggest: something of the human dimension and environmental degradation of these hidden and largely forgotten places. A