

laces 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 selection of the images are on view at Flowers Gallery in New York through May 7.

Hatje Cantz recently published a book of the series, which is divided into three sections, by location. The first covers Kurchatov and the Polygon Test site, beginning with a diorama of the site with miniature houses and tiny tanks and planes. Then come expansive landscapes interrupted by large concrete monoliths created to withstand blasts and crumbling masonry buildings half cleared by the bulldozers that erased most of the region's buildings as the Russian Military retreated following the collapse of the Soviet Union. One picture shows a cluster of crucifixes dotting the horizon line, which are nearly obscured by what appear to be power plants or chemical factories in the

region's buildings and also as the Russian Military retreated obscured by what appear to be power plants or chemical factories in the distance. There are no people in Kander's Dust photographs, but traces of humanity are everywhere.

The section on Priozersk includes military installations, some with missiles displayed on pedestals like trophies. An abandoned building holds cheerful, 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 statue 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.

