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Snapshot: 'The Nevada Test Site' by Emmet Gowin

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The book evinces the chilling impact of nuclear weapons on the natural world, reminding us too of the deadly threat they continue to pose to humanity at large.



'The Nevada Test Site' (1996) © Emmet Gowin

At first glance, Emmet Gowin's aerial lens appears to open on to a desolate lunar landscape, a wasteland pockmarked with hundreds of craters. But Gowin's subject is actually the Nevada Test Site, where American nuclear weapons were detonated between 1951 and 1992.

The only photographer to have been granted official and sustained access to the site, Gowin revisits his original negatives from 1996 and 1997 in his new book. The Nevada Test Site evinces the chilling impact of nuclear weapons on the

natural world, reminding us too of the deadly threat they continue to pose to humanity at large.

Yet, Gowin's hypnotic photographs also speak to his fascination with finding beauty in areas ravaged by disaster, and "the possibilities for aesthetic redemption and a more hopeful future".

'The Nevada Test Site' is published by Princeton University Press