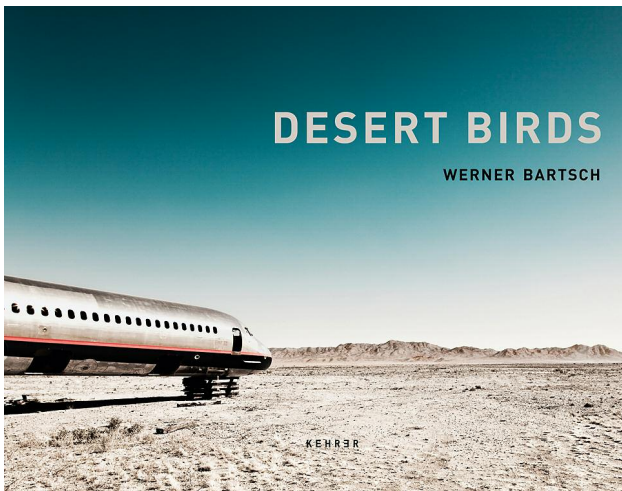




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NEW RELEASE

Werner Bartsch DESERT BIRDS

Texts by Werner Bartsch & Sophia Greiff
Hardcover with dust jacket

30x23 cm

112 pages

50 color ills.

German / English

ISBN 978-3-86828-179-8

US\$ 45.00

September 2011

Distributed by Consortium Book Sales and Distribution
www.cbsd.com

A cockpit faces into an endless desert landscape; a gangway stands in the middle of an abandoned expanse, points at the sky and appears to wait for planes that no longer fly, for passengers that no longer arrive. At the vast aircraft storage grounds in the middle of the desert in southwestern USA, hundreds of discarded aircrafts stand in waiting and contemplate their fate.

Deprived of their mobility and functionality, the discarded planes are reduced to their basic form. In the gleaming light of the burning desert sun, on white sand and against a backdrop of bright-blue sky, the aerodynamic shapes and elegant curves shine with an unreal brilliance. In the sleek wings and abstract silhouettes, which stand out in the bright glow of the moon and under the clear, starry sky, the futuristic expressiveness of these aircraft becomes apparent one more time. Like imposing metal sculptures, they submit to their rough surroundings, becoming unintentional works of art placed in no-man's land. In its expansiveness and simplicity, the arid desert functions as a minimalist backdrop against which the grace and beauty of the Desert Birds are made fully evident.

Normally strictly isolated from the outside world, the storage grounds opened their gates for this project by German photographer Werner Bartsch. In his impressive images we find ancient specimen of the world's best known transport aircraft Dakota as well as retired airliners like the Boeing Stratocruiser and even the VC-121A Constellation, once President Eisenhower's Air Force One, built in 1948.

These photographs are not inventories of discarded airplanes, not documentaries of storage yards and airplane graveyards; they are a tribute to countless hours in the air and long journeys, to the pioneer spirit and human imagination.

Werner Bartsch, born in 1965, studied communication design/ photography. After his studies he lived between New York and Berlin and settled as a freelance photographer in Hamburg in 1996. He is a member of BFF, the German Association of Freelance Photographers, and works on assignment for major German and international publications and agencies. His art projects have led him to the various regions of the world.

Kehrer Verlag

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Fon ++49 (0)6221/649 20-18, Fax ++49 (0)6221/64920-20

www.kehrerverlag.com / www.artbooksheidelberg.com



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Press images



Werner Bartsch, Tail #1



Werner Bartsch, Gangway



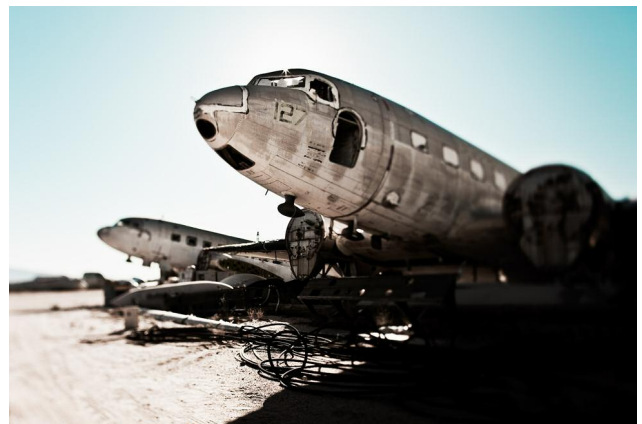
Werner Bartsch, Full Moon #1



Werner Bartsch, Air Force One



Werner Bartsch, Cockpit



Werner Bartsch, Dakotas #3



Werner Bartsch, Clean Cut



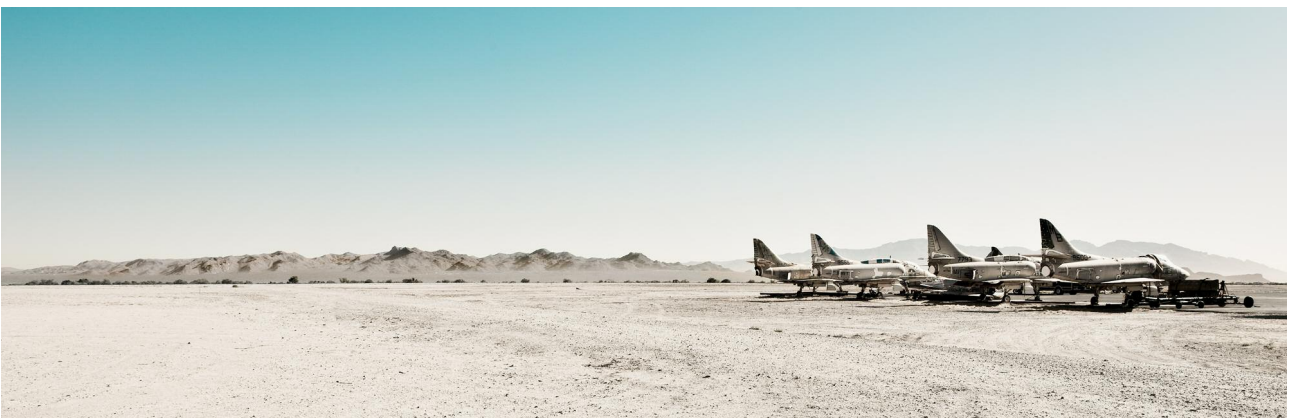
Werner Bartsch, Grounded#4



Werner Bartsch, African Queen



Werner Bartsch, Friends



Werner Bartsch, Stranded#2