


# INDIFFERENT WEST

THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST DESERT

DANIEL MIRER

Above: *Abandoned Mine with Blue Door*
Right: *Alabama Hills, Lone Pine, CA*





*Indifferent West* explores the tension between connection and isolation through the evolving landscapes of the American West in the Anthropocene. The region has long been imagined as a place of freedom, possibility, and connection to nature, yet it is increasingly defined by environmental degradation, water scarcity, resource extraction, climate-driven flooding, wildfire, and forced migration. My photographs examine landscapes where people remain deeply connected to the cultural mythology of the American West while becoming increasingly isolated from the ecological realities that sustain it. Tourist destinations, highways, reservoirs, deserts, and small towns become sites where historical narratives of frontier expansion intersect with the consequences of colonialism, industrial development, and the climate crisis. The work also considers photography itself as a form of connection. By documenting familiar yet transformed landscapes, I invite viewers to recognize the fragile relationship between human ambition and the natural environment. Images that initially appear picturesque gradually reveal evidence of environmental stress, contested histories, and shifting identities. “Indifferent West” suggests that the American West is both a shared cultural landscape and an increasingly fragmented ecological one. It asks how we remain connected to place when water systems are collapsing, communities are displaced by drought or flooding, and the myths that once defined the region no longer reflect its environmental and social realities. Through these photographs, I hope to foster a deeper awareness of our collective responsibility to reconnect with the land, its histories, and its uncertain future.



*Desert Oasis Park*






*Desert Pool Murals*



*Pickup Truck, Caldor Fire of US 50, Lake Tahoe, CA*





*Fireplace Chimney, After Caldor Fire, Lake Tahoe, CA*



*Rusted Steel Doors to Bomb Shelter, New Mexico*





*Rusty Pipeline*



*Stairs to Mountain Landing*





*Swimming Pool by Desert Landscape*