



## ART AND NUCLEAR TESTING

# Featuring Doug Waterfield

*In the 1950s, the U.S. Department of Energy (formerly known as the Atomic Energy Commission) began testing atomic bombs at the Nevada Test Site (NTS), rocketing America into what became known as the Atomic Age. At the same time, the Atomic Energy Commission built several "Survival Towns" also known as "Doomtowns" at the NTS. These were recreations of what was considered to be the quintessential American town, populated by mannequins, and then lit up by atomic blasts to see what the effects would be. The photos and film footage*

*that survive from these tests were quite influential on my painting series, also entitled "Doomtown". The series deals with atomic tests as well as the paranoia, acknowledgement, and eventual acceptance of the Bomb and its insertion into American popular culture.*

*One of the driving forces behind my work is educating the public – bringing awareness to a forgotten part of our past. I don't want to take a political view on the morality of atomic testing – people already know what to think of that. I want to take*

*this little known aspect of our history as a world power and shed a little light on it.*

### **Doug Waterfield**

has been an art professor since 2000. He is currently a Professor of Art at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, USA. He also serves as Department Chair. Waterfield's artwork has been shown nationally for the past 25 years. Most recently his 'Doomtown' painting series was exhibited at the National Nuclear Science Museum in Albuquerque and the National Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas.



### THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTS 29 AUGUST 2014

In December 2009, the United Nations General Assembly declared 29 August as the International Day against Nuclear Tests. The day was proposed by Kazakhstan as it marks both the closure of the former Soviet Semipalatinsk Test Site in 1991 in modern-day Kazakhstan and the date of the first Soviet nuclear test conducted there in 1949.

The International Day against Nuclear Tests aims to raise public awareness and prevent more of the "devastating and harmful effects on the lives and health of people and the environment" caused by nuclear testing.

To mark the International Day against Nuclear Tests on 29 August 2014, a reception is being organized in the Rotunda at the Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria, from 13:00 to 14:00 by the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the international organizations in Vienna.

The reception will take place on the final day of a five-day exhibition of the 'Doomtown' painting series by the artist Doug Waterfield in the Rotunda. The exhibition will also feature material by Kazakhstan's ATOM Project, the international campaign to create awareness about the human and environmental devastation caused by nuclear testing.

# Paintings from the 'Doomtown' series BY DOUG WATERFIELD



*Doomtown X: Mannequins in the Desert: Operation Cue*



*Doomtown XIX: Bikini Shot Spectators*



*Doomtown IX: Apple II Sequential House Explosion*