

Stop Tanks with Books Mark Neville

Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2020 shortlisted British artist Mark Neville moved home and studio from London to live in Kyiv, Ukraine, last year. With 100,000 Russian troops amassed on the Ukrainian border and on the whole country on the cusp of war, Neville's book project, 'Stop Tanks With Books', calls on the international community to urgently support Ukraine and help deter further Russian invasion.

Since 2015 Neville has been documenting life in Ukraine, with subjects ranging from holidaymakers on the beaches of Odessa, to the Roma communities on the Hungarian border, the churchgoers and nightclubbers of Kyiv, to those living on the frontline in Eastern Ukraine. Eighty of Neville's photographs are brought together in this book, edited by David Campany, together with short stories about the conflict from Ukrainian novelist Lyuba Yakimchuk, research from the Centre of Eastern European Studies in Berlin about the 2.5 million Ukrainians already displaced by the war, and a call to action for the international community.

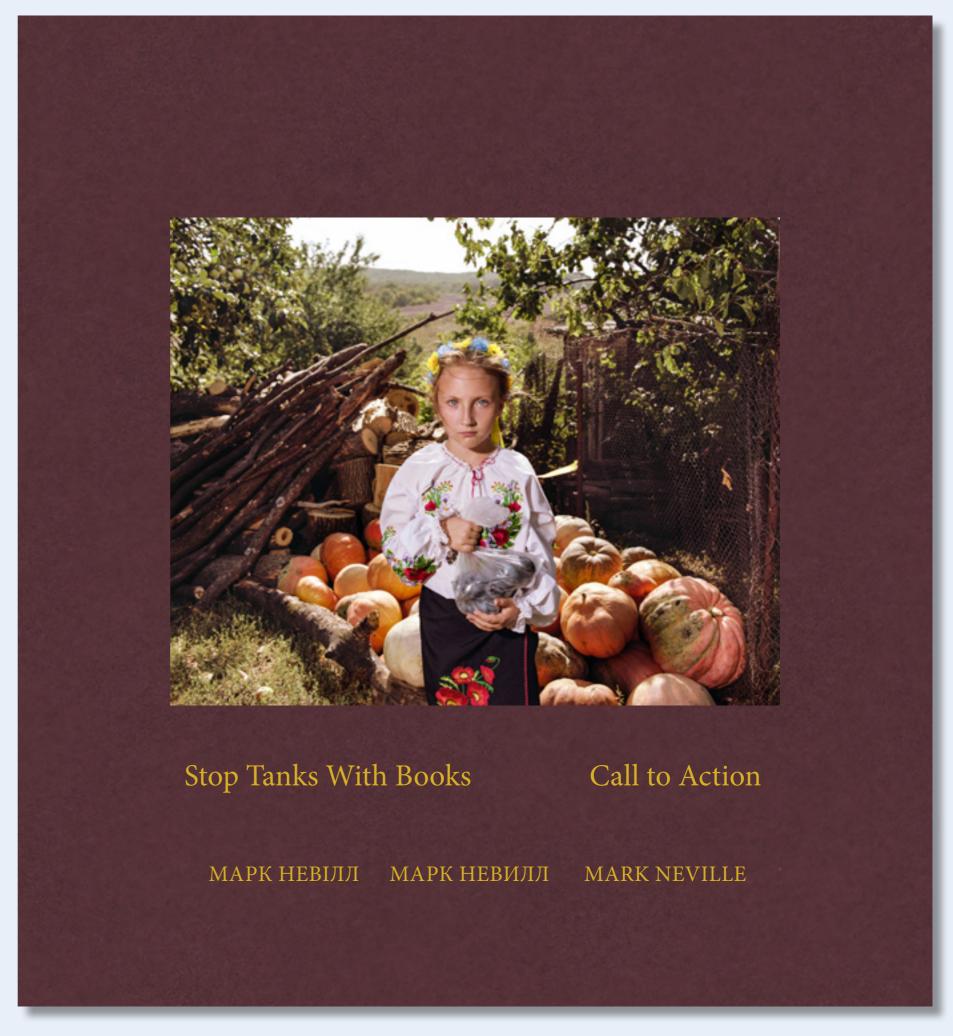
Employing his activist strategy of a targeted book dissemination, Neville is sending out 750 complimentary copies of the book for free to key policy makers, opinion makers, ambassadors, members of parliament, members of the international community and its media, as well as those involved directly in peace talks. The aim is for recipients of this book to be prompted into real action which will result in an end to the war, an end to the killing in Eastern Ukraine, and the withdrawal of Russian forces from occupied territories in Donbas and Crimea.

A further 750 copies will be distributed commercially next month by the books' American publisher Nazraeli Press, and by the British online bookshop Setanta books.

Published by Nazraeli Press Edited by David Campany Hardback 38.1 cm x 35.5 cm 180 pages 80 images

USA orders available for pre-order here from NZ.

European orders available for pre-order here from Setanta Books.







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Neville says: "The atmosphere is extremely tense here in Kyiv. Bomb shelters and siren drills are being prepared in the capital. A number of foreign media outlets have recently published data on Russia's plans to invade Ukraine in January or February this year, in order to capture at least two-thirds of Ukrainian territory, and men and women from hundreds of different professions are now being required to register for military service. Everyone here is discussing what to do if the conflict reaches Kyiv. Do we stay and fight? Do we leave for Western Ukraine? Or do we flee Ukraine completely? I wonder what the international response would be if Stockholm, London, Paris, or New York were threatened with an unprovoked and imminent invasion by Russia? Last year Ukraine celebrated 30 years of independence, and yet the fight for that independence continues."

"Together with the publisher in California I am rushing to get this book printed and disseminated before Putin invades. All texts found in the book are in three different languages (Ukrainian, Russian and English), and we will go to print in two weeks time in Istanbul. Then I will fly to Istanbul and personally pack and post out 750 copies of the book with cover letters to its targeted audience, those who have it within their power to help Ukraine. The international community needs to ask itself a series of urgent of questions, not least of all these: If Russia's invasion escalates it will result in a massive exodus of refugees. Ukraine has a population of over 40 million, what will happen if only ten percent of these people suddenly flee the country? How will the international community cope with such numbers? Europe's largest nuclear power plant is located in Zaporizhzhia, Central Ukraine, on the Dnieper river. It is not difficult to see how conflict within its immediate vicinity can have globally disastrous consequences. And if Ukraine falls to Russia, which country will be next?"





