## INTO THE FIRE MATT STUART

Into the Fire is Matt Stuart's second book of photographs following on from his critically acclaimed 'All that life can Afford'.

Into the Fire documents the daily lives of people who live in Slab City, an offgrid community based on a former military base in the Sonoran desert, just north of the Mexican border.

It is home to travellers, dog lovers, thieves, military veterans, artists and inventors. Its population numbers thousands throughout the winter, in the summer, when temperatures can exceed  $120^\circ$ F ( $49^\circ$ C) it dwindles into the low hundreds. True 'Slabbers' are the people with befriended and photographed.

This is a world where people build earth covered bunkers to live in and bathe in muddy desert springs, tyres are used as decorative wreaths, and a fork in the road is signposted with an oversized plywood fork.

Slab City invites people to come as they are. Most Slabbers struggled in a world of paying rent and small talk, disadvantaged by their lack of social conformity. The Slabs provide refuge.

Accepting others flaws is a step towards accepting yourself.

These photographs were made between February and June 2018.

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