

Review „SIGNS“

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By Andrian Kreye

“Since the foundation of the US it was often Europeans who cut to the chase of America’s sentiments. The classics range from Alexis de Tocqueville’s studies of ‘Democracy in America’, to Robert Frank’s photo book ‘The Americans’, to Wim Wenders’ ‘paris texas’.

In a country, which so consistently works on a homogeneous cultural identity, the view point of outsiders is so focused because they discover so much in the every-day life that is very basic. The German photographer Peter Granser also has been traveling across the US for years.

In his two stunning photo books “Sun City” and “Coney Island”, with his melancholic view point he reduced the colourful side of the US to sun bleached ruins of the American dream. With his new book “Signs” he now presents an essay about the conservative America, which in its minimalistic directness deeply penetrates

the mood of the country that is at a historic turn-around point. The photos were taken in Texas, that is in the very state, which George W. declares to be his home and in which strict piety and defiant combativeness combine to a unique attitude that is so alien tous Europeans. Granser avoids becoming polemic.

His photos are guided by the sometimes subtle, sometimes confrontational signs left by this society in the empty Texan landscape; they are guided by the clear view of the outsider who knows a lot, but claims nothing.”