



SIGNING OFF

PHOTOGRAPHER PETER GRANSER



Here lies Texas, as the Bush era draws to a close. Peter Granser has sketched a portrait of a state, the spiritual home of the outgoing President, and in so doing has captured the state of mind of conservative America.

During 2006-2007, Granser covered 20,000km in three trips to the Deep South, encountering the mega-churches and vast army bases that underpin the philosophy of the region: religiosity and militarism. Coiled tightly around these twin peaks runs the yellow ribbon of patriotism. The rhetoric of Truth

and Freedom pervades and defines the landscape of Texas, from restaurants to churches to billboards. Two simple words spell out the political future for the state, regardless of electoral victory: Never Hillary. Plastic cups pressed into the holes of a fence in front of supply containers spell out a welcome home for soldiers returning from Iraq: JOB WELL DONE.

The Bush legacy, we see, will endure in his home state of Texas, as it will, no doubt, elsewhere in the world.

Max Houghton

Peter Granser's new book *Signs* is published by Hatje Cantz. He is represented by Galerie Mennour, Paris.





