

The ultimate aerial tour of creative drone photography, brimming with remarkable images from around the globe and selected from the world's leading drone photography website.

DronesCapes

The New Aerial Photography from Dronestagram

Edited by Ayperi Karabuda Ecer

c. 250 illustrations

21.0 x 25.0 cm

288pp

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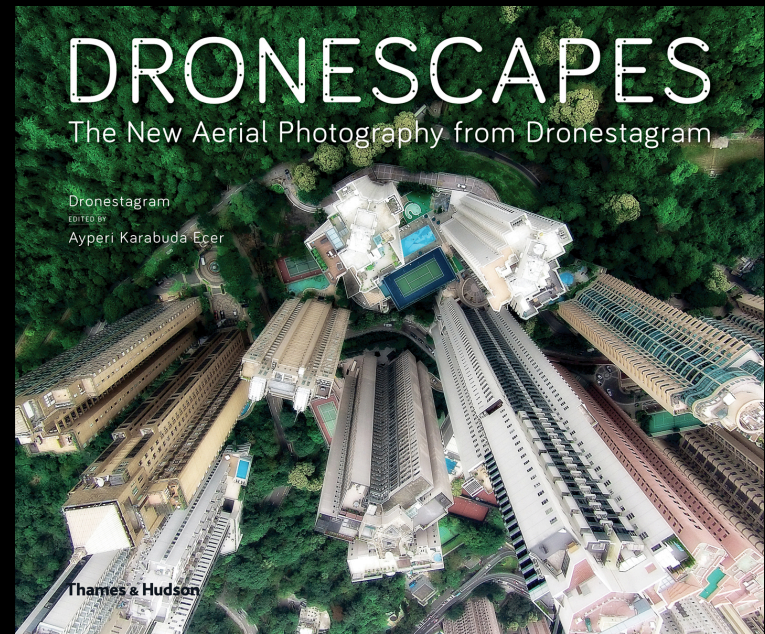
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A4

Book

PROVISIONAL COVER



Key Sales Points

- The first book to celebrate creative drone photography – the technology of which has received increasing media attention in the last two years
- Features more than 250 images from all over the world, including remote, inaccessible locations, iconic buildings and majestic wildlife
- Compiled from the world's leading drone photography website, Dronestegram, which has over 15,000 members across 70 countries and has attracted sponsorship from National Geographic



LOOK UP

Take a moment to remember the photographs of your parents and grandparents, staring happily at you from out of the frame; displayed on your wall, on top of the family piano, the fireplace, your desk. Now envisage a future where family members no longer look at 'you' but 'up above', as they are immortalized by a drone that has been programmed to fly overhead.

Ever since the invention of photography there has been a desire to capture the world from above. The first aerial photographs were created in 1858 by 'Nadar' (aka Gaspard-Félix Tournachon) and documented the rooflines of the French village of Petit-Becetre. These images were shot from a balloon tethered at a height of 80m (260ft) and were the precursor to other aerial works by Nadar, including his iconic views of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris in 1868.

Since these early experiments, aerial photography has evolved, always with the aim of 'putting together the pieces', of presenting all-encompassing views, of the environments we inhabit, with ever increasing clarity and detail. These vistas, all the time seeking to provide new visual perspectives, show not only the grandeur of our urban and natural habitats but also highlight our responsibility in their preservation.

Aerial photography used to be expensive and exclusive. It involved having sophisticated and costly

equipment and a wide range of professional skills aimed at documenting the unknown, the exotic. Today, however, the increasing democratization of image technology has opened up the sky to just about everyone. The drone photography revolution is a game changer, with an ever growing and diverse number of users, including not only professional photographers but also hobbyists, now having access to this technology and the new perspectives of the world that it offers.

Unlike traditional aerial photography, drones do so much more than just going 'higher' and 'wider'. They get closer to, and more immersed in their subject; they seek to trace, to follow. In this aim, however, they carry some major contradictions. Like the Internet, they offer unprecedented opportunities for discovery, access and liberation but also a powerful means for surveillance and destruction.

Hand in hand with the very quick evolution of drone warfare, the strategic use of military and governmental drone imagery is constantly broadening, often with the aim of planning or documenting ruination. Recently a Russian crew launched a quadcopter that surveyed the ancient city of Palmyra, which had been brutally wrecked by IS forces since they took over the area in 2015 - the footage itself was stunning, and looked more like a high-end tourist promotion than a document of obliteration.

New professional practices are also developing -

Moscow, Russia
By Petr Jan Juračka



05.7558

376175

1m (30)



CHAPTER 1

DRONES ARE US



Sviland, Norway
by r_audrius

518358

518456

52m (17ft)

Originally from Lithuania, this dronester has been living and working in Norway for more than ten years, and finds the beauty of the Norwegian landscape continuously inspiring.

This image, titled *King of the Mountain*, was taken near the small town of Sviland in Rogaland, using a DJI Phantom 3 professional. The photographer had to wait at least an hour before he could take the perfect shot: a drone from the highest part of the mountain.





Tamarin, Mauritius
By Christopher_Barry

📍 -203378
📏 673761
👤 100m (3334)



Zoucheng, China
By ambroselune

📍 35.4096
📏 1170386
👤 20m (6630)



Shah Alam, Malaysia
By ari7474

📍 3.0905
📏 101.3766
👤 72m (248)



Manila, Philippines
By jericsaniel

📍 14.7679
📏 121.0596
📏 6m (20ft)



Bickenbach, Germany
By Lightning-Rocket

📍 49.7475
📏 8.6159
📏 112m (375ft)

Titled *Chalk it up!* this picture was taken by the photographer using a custom-made drone, which he constructed from an old quadframe from one of the first APM modules ever produced. Lightning-Rocket joined the Dronestagram community in

Santa Fe, USA
By romeoch

📍 36.2558
📏 106.4252
📏 25m (25ft)

A drone of the Santa Fe Photographic Workshop, shot with a DJI Inspire 1 and a X5 Zenmuse camera with 15mm lens. See also pages 87 and 187–91.





Ludovic Moulou

AGE 36
PROFESSION Engineer in Internet-security, video maker and photographer for Marana Photo Video
NATIONALITY French
BASED IN Tahaa, Tahiti, and Aix en Provence, France
USES DRONES SINCE August 2010
DRONE FAVORITE S100
EQUIPMENT DJI Phantom and ParrotBebop + GoPro Hero 3 Black Edition, Parrot and Sony Nex5

Tahaa, Tahiti

15,6167
151,0000
100m (333ft)



As technology advances – with the rise of the 360 camera, Virtual Reality, more sensitive sensors and much more – the future of drone photography will become even more incredible.’

In 2013 Ludovic Moulou moved from Marseille to the Tahaa lagoon, an area of outstanding natural beauty located in-between the French Polynesian islands of Tahaa and Raata, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. It was here that he set up a new office from which he would operate his drones – his very own motorboat – under the name of Marama Photo Video (*the same title by which he is known on Drones4guyana*).

Moulou works predominantly on and in the areas around the islands, capturing idyllic scenes of the natural world that most people might only dream of visiting. For many, he says, Tahiti symbolizes paradise on Earth. If you have ever travelled to the islands by aeroplane, you would certainly remember the hypnotic beauty of the lagoon just beneath.

Moulou is the only drone operator working in the area and is always busy producing photographs for tourists and local companies. While his images provide a sense of the remoteness of the islands they are always populated with people. These individuals gently punctuate his seascapes, neither being entirely consumed by their environment, nor encroaching upon it, Moulou capturing here perhaps an ideal relationship between humans and the natural world. This context, he explains, also provides a multitude of subjects for shooting, and he is always striving to discover them anew. ‘One of my goals is to photograph from the air the humpback whales that enter the lagoon during seasonal migration... or the group of dolphins that I often encounter when I’m moving from one island to another’.

Moulou is not only an observer but has a committed interest in

the area, lecturing about drone photography in schools in the nearby Vanuatu islands, and inviting locals to watch him work and view the scenes in his control monitor.

When Cyclone Pam hit the Vanuatu Islands in 2015, they suffered some of the worst devastation in the area. Moulou began photographing the islands’ communities in the aftermath, and also played a role in bringing aid to the area. However, rather than portraying the people in these communities as victims, his photos show instead their resilience and positivity as they sought to rebuild their lives.

It is his concern for the preservation of the natural world that inspires him to work: *‘most important for me is communicating that, in order to keep these fabulous landscapes, we have to fight against climate change, before they disappear altogether’*. The evolution of drone technology is another guiding factor. As technology advances – with the rise of the 360 camera, Virtual Reality, more sensitive sensors and much more – the future of drone photography will become even more incredible.’

In spite of working in such a glorious location, Moulou says there are challenges to the job, which include monitoring the safe return of his drone when shooting from the ocean, and preventing rust from forming on the metal elements, as well as navigating more difficult weather conditions. He finds that travelling with equipment can offer up other challenges: ‘when I travel by aeroplane to other islands I often have to explain to airport staff why I carry so many lithium-polymer batteries with me. On many occasions I have had to abandon my batteries before boarding’.

Tahaa, Tahiti

166167
11.01.2020
100m (333ft)



Tahaa, Tahiti

166167
11.01.2020
90m (295ft)



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
By Alexandre Salem

📍 -22.9068
📏 45.1729
🏠 900m (2,950ft)

The iconic Christ the Redeemer, created by the artist Paul Landowski and the engineer Heitor da Silva, and constructed at the peak of Corcovado, a mountain located in the city's Tijuca Forest National Park.

The photographer, Alexandre Salem (see also pages 136 and 139–42), often takes nature as his subject, and his drone accompanies him on his numerous hiking trips across the country. For this photograph, taken at sunset, he used a GoPro HERO4 camera and a DJI Phantom drone.



San Francisco, USA
By GotShots

📍 37.8255

📞 +122-4791

📏 27m (90ft)

Shot using a DJI Phantom 2 Vision Plus this picture nearly didn't come to fruition. It took GotShots six months of returning to the site before the weather conditions were just right for flying and for taking the perfect image.

Launching the quadcopter from the Marin Headlands to the north side of the bridge, an area in which the wind speeds can reach up to 35mph, the photographer found it a challenge to control the drone. However, after several attempts, he finally achieved the composition he had envisaged, with the pillars of the bridge acting as a frame through which the city can be seen. The composition is slightly off-centre to show as much of San Francisco as possible. With state regulations cracking down on drone flights in the area, pictures like this one could soon be a thing of the past.



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