

WHITE DESERT

The White Desert is an unusual region on the edge of the Sahara. The desert is made of neither sand nor rock but rather of limestone – white limestone towering high in bizarre formations.

Scattered on the ground are thousands of small, black, glass-like objects that offer a strange contrast to the white lime. The origins of these black forms are unknown, but stories about them have been made up and retold. Like the legend that they are the remnants of an underground volcanic explosion: the drops of magma that penetrated to the surface became solid once they cooled off.

I watch the changes that take place to the white surface in the course of the day and night. It is a whiteness that vanishes into the sky in the horizonless expanse of the desert, a whiteness permeated by silence.

Myrtha Steiner, November 2003