



Byron Smith: Testament '22

Byron Smith
Igor Kossov

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- **Testament '22** is Byron Smith's powerful debut monograph documenting his 10,000-mile photographic odyssey through Ukraine's first year under Russia's unprovoked invasion
- Lucie Photo Book Award 2024: Traditional Category Finalist

Testament '22 is Byron Smith's powerful debut monograph documenting his 10,000-mile photographic odyssey through Ukraine's first year under Russia's unprovoked invasion. Inspired by Taras Shevchenko's literary legacy, Smith captures an intimate yet varied portrait of a nation at war.

His unflinching images, which have won several awards, bear witness to the staggering human cost — grieving mothers, shattered communities amid ruin — while also celebrating Ukraine's tenacious spirit resilient against unspeakable tragedy. From Kyiv's devastated suburbs to newly liberated villages, Smith's hauntingly beautiful black and white and colour photographs ensure these sacrifices won't be forgotten.

Contributing to the overwhelming evidence of Russian crimes, these profoundly moving portraits feature texts by Kyiv Independent reporter Igor Kossov, with whom Smith collaborated on front-line dispatches. An essential reminder that the costs extend far beyond the battlefield, **Testament '22** gives voice to the Ukrainians' resilience and to their fight for their beloved homeland.

Byron Smith's work has been published in numerous publications including *The New York Times*, Getty Images, *Le Monde*, *Libération*, *The Guardian*, *Der Spiegel*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

