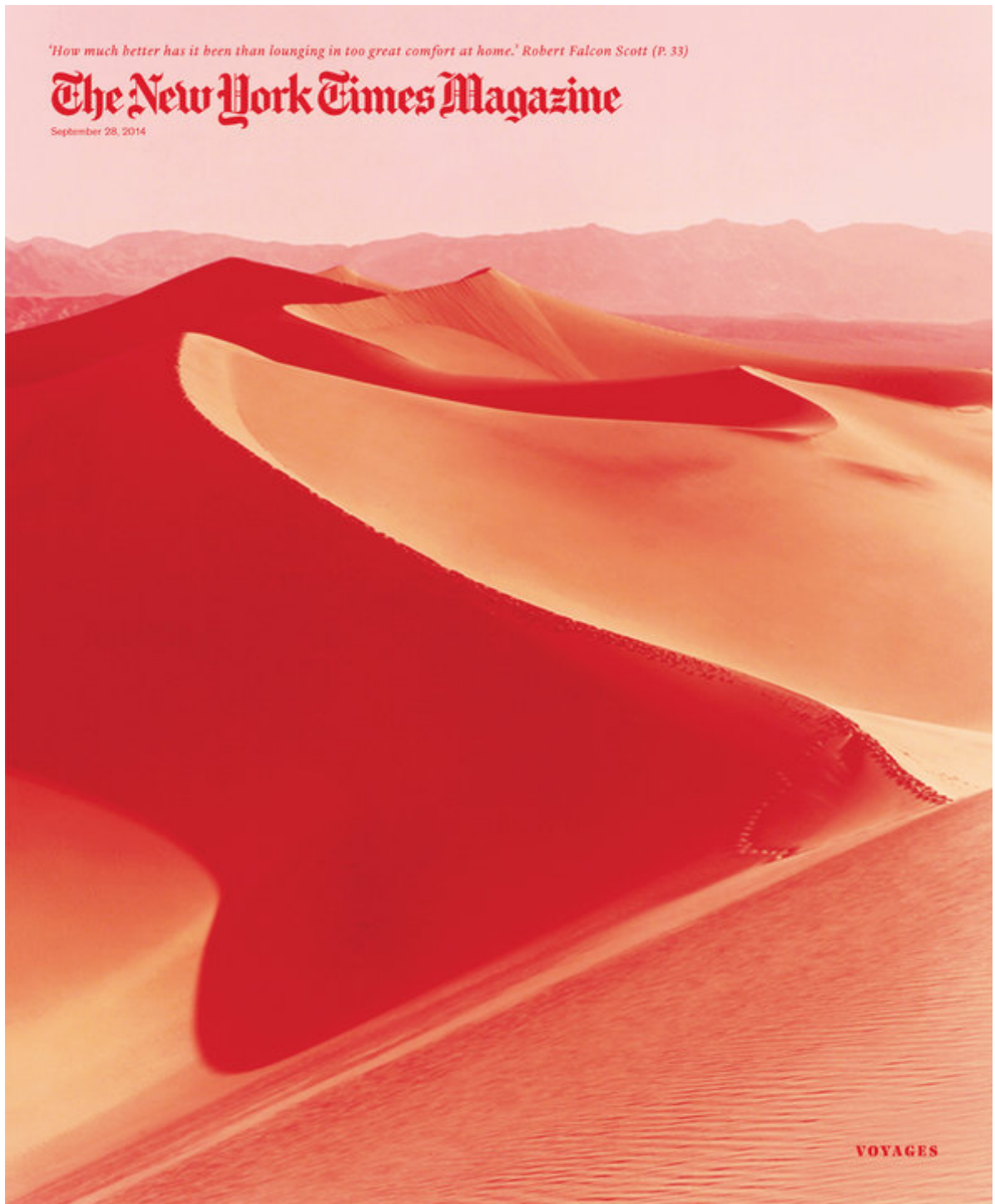


NYTimes Magazine, September 28, 2014



NYTimes Magazine, September 28, 2014

The New York Times Magazine
September 28, 2014

Voyages

When the poet Elizabeth Bishop was 40 years old, she took a trip to Brazil, intending to visit for a few weeks. She stayed for almost two decades. The title poem of her next book, "Questions of Travel" (1965), wonders aloud: "Think of the long trip home./Should we have stayed at home and thought of here?" Similar thoughts occur, sooner or later, to every voyager — why did we come? What will the return be like? This issue contains four journeys, each of a different sort. One is of the mind, a re-envisioning of a faraway land; another is very much of the body, a grueling trip on foot. A third journey is taken to please the eye, a fourth is taken to please the ear. Should our travelers have stayed at home? Bishop's poem provides an answer: "But surely it would have been a pity/not to have seen the trees along this road."

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Endpaper



Deserts are places for pilgrims and mystics, settings for odysseys and renewals, spaces to journey through and be changed by. You can see the light there. The photographer David Benjamin Sherry hauled his large-format 8-by-10 camera into Death Valley last year and brought back some of that light on film. Then he went into the darkroom and, using color, added his own light, his own emotions — “to instill fear or joy,” in his words. Some of the resulting images now illuminate our pages: on the cover, on Page 21 and above. Three pictures, three moods, three stained-glass visions. They belong to a larger body of work, “Wonderful Land,” for which Sherry spent months visiting well-known vistas around the American West. His landscapes, colorized with hues not seen in nature, conjure clarity and disorientation, making the familiar strange again — which just happens to be what all good voyages do. ♦