

Debi Cornwall: *Welcome to Camp America, Inside Guantánamo Bay* Exhibition

"a subtly layered study of an important chapter in American history. Intermingling investigative reporting with fine art aesthetics, her images constantly walk a knife-edge of interpretation, each a test of vantage point and state of mind, and it is this openness that makes the exhibit so thought-provoking and compelling." —[Collector Daily](#) (November 30, 2017)

January 11, 2018 marks the 16th anniversary of the opening of the first "War on Terror" prison at the United States Naval Station in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba (known as "Gitmo" after its military call letters, GTMO). Conceptual documentary artist and former civil rights lawyer Debi Cornwall's exhibition plumbs the familiar in this state of exception, marrying empathy and dark humor with systemic critique. The exhibition was shown in 2017 at the BMW Photo Space of the GoEun Museum of Photography (Korea) and the Centre de la Photographie Genève (Switzerland), and is packaged for shipping to the next European venue. The U.S. exhibition is on view at [Steven Kasher Gallery](#) (NYC) through December 22.



This exhibition investigates the human experience of Gitmo for both prisoners and guards, through their residential and leisure spaces (*Gitmo at Home*, *Gitmo at Play* series), and gift-shop souvenirs (*Gitmo on Sale* series). In the 16 years since its prisons opened, Gitmo has housed 780 "detainees." The vast majority have been cleared and released, returning home or transferred to third countries. In the *Beyond Gitmo* series, Cornwall collaborates with 14 former prisoners in nine countries, from Albania to Qatar, plus a former guard, to make environmental portraits replicating, in the free world, the military's "no faces" rule. Reviewed in [Libération](#) (France), [Le Courier](#) (Switzerland), [WOZ](#) (Switzerland), & [Sajinyesul](#) (Korea).

Programming: This exhibition addresses universal questions about justice, rights, security and humanity in the post-September 11 era. Community programming may be planned in collaboration with the artist, who draws on her background as a civil rights lawyer and trained mediator to engage local audiences alongside a network of experts with personal experience on both sides of the wire.



Also available for display:

The acclaimed book, [Welcome to Camp America: Inside Guantánamo Bay](#) (Radius 2017), with unique design, text in English/Arabic, essays by releasee Moazzam Begg, scholar & critic Fred Ritchin, and Cornwall; a sound installation in collaboration with investigative poet Frank Smith; a 4-minute video; gift-shop souvenirs; and archival material including vintage postcards and once-classified government documents.

