

1000 Words

TOP 10 PHOTOBOOKS OF 2017

By Time Clark, December 19, 2017



8. Debi Cornwall, *Welcome to Camp America*
Radius Books

Following her 12-year career as a wrongful conviction lawyer, Debi Cornwall's practice as a photographer is informed by experiences of representing innocent DNA exonerees, which she channels into empathetic and, at times, darkly humorous photographs that comment on certain mechanisms of state control. *Welcome to Camp America* is a weighty tome that layers images of the spaces and surfaces of the Guantanamo Bay with classified government documents as well as first hand accounts. It is also studded with studio photographs of absurd merchandise available to buy from the detention centre's very own Gitmo gift shop, including "I Love Guantanamo Bay" t-shirts for toddlers and high-top Velcro "Maximum Security" shoes. Text excerpts from prisoners and military personnel in both English and Arabic also run throughout the book, rounded off perfectly by searing essays from Moazzam Begg (held in extrajudicial detention by the US government) and Fred Ritchin. A riveting insight into the Kafkaesque qualities of this infamous facility that offers further reflection on the West's military-industrial complex, post-9/11.