



NEW RELEASE KEHRER VERLAG

Christoph Bangert

hello camel

Text by Christoph Bangert

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»In my experience, the two most significant characteristics of war are horror and absurdity,« says Christoph Bangert, the German photojournalist who has been documenting crises for international publications such as the New York Times for ten years. Following his examination, in his critically acclaimed book *War Porn* (Kehrer 2014) of the way our society deals with horrific images, in his new work *hello camel* he now confronts us with the absurdity of war. He opposes our clichéd notion of modern war as a dynamic, dramatic, and heroic experience with his calm and composed, but equally odd and alien images of the wars in Afghanistan, Gaza, and Iraq. Simultaneously, *hello camel* is a celebration of the human ability to create something approximating normality in the face of violence and chaos.

Bangert won several awards, eg. World Press Photo, POYi, and participated in the Joop Swart Masterclass. After completing a 14 month long overland journey with his Land Rover across Africa he published a book called *Africa Overland* in 2013. In recent years he started to compete in motorsports events again, particularly desert off-road rallies.

War Porn, his last book, was published by Kehrer in 2014.

Christoph Bangert (born 1978) studied photography at the Fachhochschule Dortmund, Germany and at the International Center of Photography, New York. Bangert was a semiprofessional rally driver for four years. He has worked in Palestine, Japan, Darfur, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Pakistan, the US, Lebanon, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Iraq, where he was on assignment for The New York Times. His work from Iraq is collected in the book *IRAQ: The Space Between*. His pictures have been published in leading international publications and he regularly photographs on assignment for The New York Times, Stern Magazine and Neue Zürcher Zeitung.

Exhibitions

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Kunstmuseum Singen

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Rebecca Rössling, rebecca.roessling@kehrrerverlag.com oder

Kathrin Szymikowski, kathrin.szymikowski@kehrrerverlag.com

Kehrer Verlag, Wieblinger Weg 21, D–69123 Heidelberg

Fon 06221/64920-25, Fax 06221/64920-20

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Press images



1 Plastic toilets in front of Hesco barriers at Forward Operating Base Howz-e-Madad. Temporary structures dominate the often vast foreign-built military installations, even though such compounds are used for many years. Eventually all installations are either abandoned or handed over to local authorities. 17 July 2010, Zhari District, Kandahar, Afghanistan
 © Christoph Bangert



2 An American soldier searches for weapons and bomb-making materials in disused water tank during a joint operation of the 213th Battalion of the Iraqi Army and American soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment out of Fort Riley, Kansas. "Sarge! I think I found something!" he shouts from inside the tank. 2 April 2005, Tel Sokhayr, Dyala, Iraq
 © Christoph Bangert



3 An Afghan policeman searches for bullet holes he was supposed to have created on a paper target during a training session conducted by Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers at Camp Nathan Smith in Kandahar. Police training efforts are hampered by corruption, incompetence and illiteracy in the existing Afghan police force. 8 May 2010, Kandahar, Afghanistan
 © Christoph Bangert



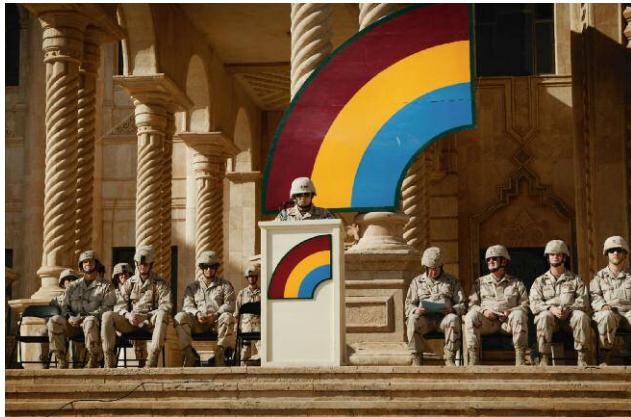
4 Cheap posters depicting scenes of paradise can be found in the most unlikely of places, such as in this rudimentary first aid station run by the 1st Battalion of the Iraqi National Police at a base called Joint Security Station Loyalty in central Baghdad. The unit had just lost 12 men in a single suicide bomb attack. 2 May 2009, Baghdad, Iraq
 © Christoph Bangert



5 German soldiers of Company 4, Mechanized Infantry Battalion 294, based in Stetten—a small town in rural Southwestern Germany—during target practice at a shooting range outside of Kabul. Shot-up Soviet-era armored vehicles litter the joint Afghan National Army- NATO military training facility. 27 March 2007, Kabul, Afghanistan
 © Christoph Bangert



6 The Monument to the Unknown Soldier in Baghdad. The structure was designed by Italian architect Marcello D'Olivo and built between 1979 and 1982. The monument is said to represent a traditional shield being dropped from the dying grasp of an Iraqi warrior. Symbols of the former Baathist regime remain omnipresent in Iraq despite the long presence of foreign forces. 24 April 2009, Baghdad, Iraq
 © Christoph Bangert



7 Major General Joseph J. Taluto, center, commander of the 42nd Infantry Division, speaks in front of one of Saddam Hussein's palaces during a ceremony marking the events of September 11, 2001. The 42nd Infantry Division was created by General Douglas MacArthur in 1917. Drawing from National Guard units from 26 different states, MacArthur said that the unit would "stretch over the whole country like a rainbow." 11 September 2001, Forward Operating Base Danger, Tikrit, Iraq
 © Christoph Bangert



8 A lavish wedding at the Alwiyah Club in Baghdad. The wedding is the creation of May Nuri, a professional wedding planner. Even during the worst of times, with car bombs going off on a daily basis in central Baghdad and horrific sectarian violence gripping the city, huge weddings and festivities still took place. 30 September 2005, Baghdad, Iraq
 © Christoph Bangert



9 A resident camel keeps a close eye on soldiers of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Tiger Squadron, Apache Troop during a cordon and search operation in Ba'aj, a predominately Sunni Arab town of 25,000 close to the Syrian border. "Camels!" is an exclamation often shouted by the American soldiers whenever the animals were sighted. 1 June 2005, Ba'aj, Nineveh, Iraq
© Christoph Bangert



10 The fortified entrance to The New York Times' Baghdad bureau during a dust storm. Iraqi security guards armed with belt-fed machine guns man the gates and watchtowers around the clock. The author lived in this walled compound for a total of about 11 months. 24 April 2006, Baghdad, Iraq
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