





1940s mobile wartime canteen in 'living history' area, Biggin Hill International Air Fair, Kent, UK, 27 June 2009. All images © Melanie Friend/courtesy Impressions Gallery – from forthcoming book *The Home Front*.

The Home Front

The series begun as a critical response to the involvement of the UK government in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Looking at the relationship between leisure and militarism, the work focuses on air shows at Royal Air Force (RAF) bases and seaside resorts in the UK, where civilian displays are intertwined with military, and nostalgia for World War II bombers is interspersed with enthusiasm for contemporary fighter jets. The Home Front will be shown at Impressions Gallery, Bradford, UK, 18 January – 6 April 2013. An accompanying publication is also planned.

Melanie Friend has worked as a photographer for over 25 years, mostly focusing on conflict. Her exhibition *Homes and Gardens: Documenting the Invisible* (1996) used a juxtaposition of still images and sound to convey fear and oppression in Kosovo. Her book, *No Place Like Home: Echoes from Kosovo* (2001), comprising photographs and interviews, looked at the immediate aftermath of the war. Friend's touring exhibition and book *Border Country* (2007) focused on immigration detainees – often refugees from war zones – incarcerated in the UK's immigration 'removal' centres. She is a part-time senior lecturer in photography at University of Sussex. www.melaniefriend.com

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WWII Lancaster bomber at Eastbourne air show, Sussex, UK, 15 August 2010.



Southport War Memorial, Southport, Merseyside, UK with display by Red Arrow fighter jets, 23 July 2011. The lettering on the monument reads: 'Faithful to her we fell and rest content.'