



## FOR-SITE FOUNDATION INVITES PUBLIC FOR HANDS-ON ARTMAKING WITH *HOME LAND SECURITY* ARTISTS ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016

**Interactive *34,000 Pillows* project by Díaz Lewis inspires conversation about immigration and human rights**

***Home Land Security* closes December 18, 2016**

San Francisco, CA, December 2, 2016—The [FOR-SITE Foundation](#) will commemorate international Human Rights Day on Dec. 10 by inviting the public to participate in Díaz Lewis's *34,000 Pillows* project, an interactive artwork that benefits Human Rights Watch and is part of FOR-SITE's current [Home Land Security](#) exhibition, now in its final weeks (on view through Dec. 18).



In the three months since it opened, *Home Land Security*—installed in former military defense structures overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge—has attracted nearly twenty-five thousand visitors from around the world, including hundreds of local school children and teens as part of outreach to Bay Area educators. Curated by FOR-SITE Director Cheryl Haines with Assistant Curator and Program Director Jackie von Treskow and organized in partnership with the National Park Service, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, and the Presidio Trust, the site-responsive project brings together contemporary artwork by 18 international artists to reflect on the human dimensions and increasing complexity of national security.

New commissions and recent artworks by **Bill Viola, Liza Lou, The Propeller Group, Trevor Paglen, Shahpour Pouyan, Do Ho Suh**, and others ([view full list](#)) have activated a suite of military sites clustered in a quarter-mile radius in the Presidio's Fort Winfield Scott, the former headquarters for coastal defense of California at the Golden Gate. Open to the public for the first

time, the five exhibition sites mark distinct chapters in the region’s military history and provide a new context for contemporary artworks addressing timely issues.

The 18 participating artists represent diverse points of origin—including China, Cuba, Iran, Israel, Mexico, Poland, South Africa, South Korea, Syria, the United States, and Vietnam—underscoring the universality of themes of home, safety, and national defense.

“*Home Land Security* offers personal perspectives from a diverse range of artists on urgent issues, such as xenophobia, forced migration, ethnic profiling, and increased surveillance,” says Haines. “We saw an increase in visitors to the exhibition in the days immediately following the United States presidential election, further confirming our belief that public art provides a much-needed, inclusive space for dialogue around complex matters, many of which have left the nation deeply divided.”

[Read more](#) about the exhibition, historical sites, and participating artists. [View](#) the exhibition brochure.

### ***34,000 Pillows* project tackles immigration policy**

One artwork in the exhibition that seeks to prompt social change and encourage direct participation from visitors is the interactive piece titled *34,000 Pillows* (2016–ongoing) by the Los Angeles-based artist duo Díaz Lewis (Alejandro Figueredo Díaz-Perera and Cara Megan Lewis). Alarmed by the congressional mandate that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) maintain a “bed quota” of 34,000 detained immigrants per day in its facilities, the artists set out in January 2016 to make a pillow to represent each held individual. They construct the pillows from clothing donated by undocumented immigrants, former detainees, and their allies to form a collective patchwork of individual experiences.

Continuing this project as part of *Home Land Security*, the artists have set up a sewing studio inside the exhibition and invited the public to join them in making pillows through hands-on workshops. The pillows’ comfort and support are not purely symbolic: it’s free to make a pillow, but visitors can also take home one of the handcrafted objects for a donation of \$159—the government’s daily cost for detaining an immigrant. Proceeds benefit Human Rights Watch, an organization that provides alternatives to the bed mandate and detention centers, and restores human dignity to former detainees.

### **A public invitation to action**

To mark Human Rights Day—celebrated annually across the world on December 10—and offer the public an opportunity to gather and create dialogue through artistic expression, the FOR-SITE Foundation will host a ***34,000 Pillows Workshop Open House*** on Saturday, December 10, and Sunday, December 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Artists Alejandro Figueredo Díaz-Perera and Cara Megan Lewis will lead the workshops personally. The special two-day, drop-in event is free and open to the public (no preregistration required; space is limited).

Visitors may also participate in the exhibition’s regularly scheduled *34,000 Pillows* workshops, held free of charge at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday through the close of the

show on December 18. The public can get information about all pillow workshop opportunities by visiting [for-site.org](http://for-site.org) or calling 415.362.9330.

### **About the FOR-SITE Foundation**

Established in 2003 by curator Cheryl Haines, the FOR-SITE Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the creation, understanding, and presentation of art about place. Recent projects encompass commissions, artist residencies, and educational programs, and include the acclaimed exhibition *@Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz; International Orange*, a group show honoring the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge; *Presidio Habitats*; and a series of land-art installations by Andy Goldsworthy currently on view in the Presidio.

### **About the exhibition partners**

The National Park Service (NPS) is a federal agency within the US Department of the Interior charged with managing the preservation and public use of America's most significant natural, scenic, historic, and cultural resources ([more at nps.gov](http://more.at.nps.gov)). The Presidio Trust is the federal agency created to save the Presidio and transform it into a new kind of national park ([more at presidio.gov/trust](http://presidio.gov/trust)). The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy is the nonprofit membership organization that supports the most-visited national park in the US through partnership with NPS and the Presidio Trust ([more at parksconservancy.org](http://parksconservancy.org)). Collectively the three partners work to welcome a wide range of artists to respond to park sites and stories and to encourage visitors to see these treasures in a new light.

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### **For calendar listings**

#### ***34,000 Pillows Workshop Open House***

Commemorate international Human Rights Day (Dec. 10) by taking part in artist duo Díaz Lewis's *34,000 Pillows* Workshop, a participatory artwork included in FOR-SITE Foundation's *Home Land Security* exhibition. Participants in these free, hands-on art-making sessions can join the Los Angeles-based artists in person as they take on the US Congress's mandate that government immigration agencies maintain a "bed quota" of 34,000 detained immigrants per day—the project aims to create a pillow representing each held individual. The *34,000 Pillows* project is one of 25 artworks by 18 international artists installed in former military sites in San Francisco's Presidio through December 18.

**Event dates:** Saturday, December 10, and Sunday, December 11, 2016

**Location:** Fort Winfield Scott ([at Langdon Court](http://at.LangdonCourt)) in the Presidio, in San Francisco's Golden Gate National Recreation Area

**Hours:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Admission:** free; drop-ins encouraged

**Information:** [for-site.org](http://for-site.org)

#### ***Home Land Security***

Eighteen artists and collectives from around the globe converge on the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, activating former military sites with artworks that reflect on the human dimensions and increasing complexity of national security, including the physical and

psychological borders that we create, protect, and cross in its name. Organized by the FOR-SITE Foundation in partnership with the National Park Service, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, and the Presidio Trust.

**Exhibition dates:** Through December 18, 2016

**Location:** Fort Winfield Scott ([at Langdon Court](#)) in the Presidio, in San Francisco's Golden Gate National Recreation Area

**Hours:** Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Admission:** free

**Information:** [for-site.org](#)

Photo credit: Visitors making pillows on site at *Home Land Security*; photo: Jan Stürmann

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**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Alison Konecki, FOR-SITE Foundation  
[alison@for-site.org](mailto:alison@for-site.org); 415.362.9330

Robyn Wise, Streetwise Communications  
[wiserobyn@gmail.com](mailto:wiserobyn@gmail.com); 415.269.7043