



Karima Cammell

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Karima Cammell is a painter, author, and entrepreneur from Berkeley, California. Under her Dromedary Press imprint, she publishes illustrated books on themes of friendship, perseverance, creative courage, and respect for the natural world. Her books have garnered a number of publishing industry accolades, including an Independent Publishers Book Award and an International Rubery Book Award nomination. Cammell is a two-time honoree at the Berkeley Public Library Foundation's annual Authors Dinner.

Formal training in art history and evolutionary botany guides Cammell's selection of subject matter and art materials. This is evident most recently in her 2016 work *The Troll Cookbook*, a folklore-flavored guide to the transformative power of cooking. Several of the book's 40 illustrations reference painting traditions throughout the ages, providing readers with a history of art as well as a celebration of the creative magic that is uniquely human.

Cammell's personal motto is "Believe in the fantasy and make it real." She exemplifies this credo by narrowing the distinctions between her art and the rest of her life. Her own handmade clothing, inspired by traditional and historic costume, has been featured in articles in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the premiere issue of *Where Women Create*. Cammell makes regular trips to the Carnival of Venice in extravagant costumes of her own design, and she is quoted extensively on the cultivation of a personal style in Sheila Heti's 2014 book, *Women in Clothes*.

In 2001, Cammell founded *Castle in the Air*, a shop, arts school, and online community that inform and inspire artists and dreamers around the world. Guided by a vision of the ideal artist's studio, *Castle in the Air* has led revivals in forgotten and endangered arts including calligraphy and crepe-paper crafts.

Cammell's current studies include egg tempera painting and the archetypal truths found in fairytale traditions. She lives in Berkeley, where she is at work on her next books.

Select Bibliography and Exhibitions

Dromedary Press

When the World Stayed at Home (2020), author and illustrator

A simple book exploring scenes from our pandemic year.

The Troll Cookbook (2016), co-author and illustrator

Trolls use ancient nourishing practices and time-honored simplicity to make cooking understandable, delicious, and fun. Co-written with Clint Marsh.

- First-Place Winner (Nonfiction), IndieReader Discovery Awards
- First-Place Winner (Crafts/Hobbies/How-To), Reader Views Literary Awards
- Winner of the Bronze Medal for General Cookbook, Living Now Book Awards
- Finalist (Nonfiction), Ruberny Book Award
- Finalist (General Cookbook), International Book Awards
- Finalist (General Cookbook), National Indie Excellence Awards
- Finalist (How-To/Home & Garden), Next Generation Indie Book Awards

The Stumpers (2014), author and illustrator

A woodland family of curious people work, play, and sing in harmony with each other and the earth.

Illustrated with photographs of handmade dolls and scenery.

- Finalist for the Book of the Year Award (Early Reader Picture Books), Foreword Reviews
- Winner of the Gelett Burgess Children's Book Award (Early Reader Fiction)

Commonplace Birthday (2013), author and illustrator

Minikin and Belinda use their perseverance and ingenuity to throw a party despite all odds.

- Winner of the Best of the East Bay Picture Book Award, Diablo Magazine
- Winner of the Silver Medal for Picture Book, Moonbeam Children's Book Awards
- Finalist for the Book of the Year Award (Early Reader Picture Book), ForeWord Reviews

Pirate & Hoopoe (2012), illustrator

The talking animals of Spring Valley protect their home from rapacious developers. Written by Diarmid Cammell.

- Winner of the Gold Medal Spirit Award for Imagination, Moonbeam Children's Book Awards
- Winner of the Gold Medal for Print/Design Excellence, Visual Media Alliance
- Winner of the Grand Prize for General Excellence, Visual Media Alliance
- Finalist, Young Adult Fiction, USA Best Book Awards

Glōwan (2010), author and illustrator

At the end of day the insects, animals, and magical creatures come out to celebrate in the gloaming. A 12-panel accordion pamphlet that unfolds to 38" in length.

Commonplace Mouse (2009), author and illustrator

Minikin Mouse sets out on an everyday fishing trip and returns home a hero.

- Winner of the Silver Medal for Children's Picture Book, Independent Publishers Book Awards
- Honorable Mention, Writer's Digest Self-Published Book Awards

Castle in the Air (2008), illustrator

An itinerant traveler attempts to win the heart of a young queen. Written by Duncan Brown. Published in limited hardcover and pamphlet editions.

Contributing Author

The Mermaid Handbook (Harper Design, 2018)

Wrote and illustrated tutorials for a mermaid mirror and seashell fortune party favors.

“Seashells and glass may be abundantly available, but when combined creatively, they are anything but basic; after all, no two seashells are alike.”

The Faerie Handbook (Harper Design, 2017)

Wrote an illustrated a tutorial for making and using a portable flower press.

“Flower collecting can be a lovely pastime, and, with a flower press, you can preserve your fragrant findings and use them in all sorts of enchanted projects.”

Faerie Magazine (Various issues, 2016 to present)

Wrote and illustrated crafting tutorials around themes of nature, folklore, and fantasy.

“Humble pansies nod their colorful faces at us in the spring but are as fleeting as our thoughts, wilting soon after they’re picked.” (Spring 2016)

Women in Clothes (Riverhead Books, 2014)

Among the trendsetters interviewed about the cultivation of personal style.

“I heard one of my daughter’s preteen friends bemoan how she didn’t feel beautiful. I told her that beauty is not innate but is actually a magic charm, something that’s passed along to young girls from grown women. So I took her shopping for a magic spell that could help her feel beautiful.”

Exhibitions

High Water at The Holton Studio Gallery (October 9 – November 5, 2021)

26 works by Karima Cammell including prints, paintings in egg tempera, oil and gouache, as well as works in gold on glass.

Prints, Charming (February 1 – March 19, 2010)

An exhibit of 37 works by Karima Cammell, including books, dressed prints, and sculpture. The prints were finished with fabric, lace, bullion, millinery notions, and other embellishments.

Selected Media Features and Mentions

Karima Cammell and Dromedary Press

Berkeleyside • October 15, 2021
Where Women Create • Spring 2019
Where Women Cook • Spring 2017
Edible East Bay • Winter Holidays 2016
Where Women Create • Spring 2015
San Francisco Chronicle • January 13, 2013
Where Women Create • Autumn 2008

Castle in the Air

East Bay Express • Best of the East Bay 2017
Vogue.com • April 24, 2016
Selvedge • July/August 2014
Romantic Homes • March 2014
Martha Stewart Living • December 2012
Martha Stewart Weddings • June 2012
The Martha Stewart Show • Four segments between 2009 and 2012
Romantic Country • Spring 2012
HonestlyWTF.com • March 2012
Victoria • March/April 2011
Martha Stewart Living • October 2009

Praise for The Troll Cookbook

“Unique and well researched—a real treasure.” —IndieReader

“The Troll Cookbook is my favorite book this year, one I will keep, cherish, and revisit on many different occasions.” —Susan Violante, Reader Views

Praise for The Stumpers

“An imaginative journey into a welcoming, warm little world, filled with kind souls attending to their life and work with focus and thoughtfulness. The Stumpers is full of friendly faces, all lovingly crafted by Karima’s talented hand.” —Rebecca Thuss, author of Paper to Petal, former style director, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia

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