

Kathmandu & Kali Gandaki 1955 – 1960

from the odyssey of a Western Buddhist monk

Original black and white photographs

taken by Sugata

Sales exhibition to benefit Chhairo Gompa

As a Buddhist monk with three Leica cameras around his neck, in 1960 Sugata was commissioned to photograph the 'Devil Dances' in Tukuche, with a view to promoting them for a new tourist market. Sugata not only captured the masked dances on film, he also ventured further up the Kali Gandaki valley to the then-resplendent Chhairo Gompa. However, the Tukuche lamas did not wish to see their sacred rituals promoted. Sugata left, and the hundreds of photographs were stored away in boxes – until now. Aged 93, Sugata returned to Nepal. His meeting with Shashi Dhoj Tuluchan – whose father had painted in Chhairo, and whose portrait Sugata took in 1960 – has inspired Sugata to return the photographs to Nepal.

These photographs are now for sale, and include Sugata's other photographs of that time include the Macchendranath festival, the Funeral of King Tribhuvan, portraits of his teacher, the Shiva Puri Baba, and day to day life in Kathmandu and the valley.

Over 100 original black and white photographs are for sale, to raise money for the Chhairo Gompa, which is now in urgent need of restoration.

AND

'Bird of Passage'

Book launch, published by Mandala Book Point, Kathmandu.

Bird of Passage chronicles Sugata's long life – from 1911 amid the backdrop of Nazi Germany to today, from Europe to Nepal and India and back. And back again.

Born in 1911 in Germany, Sugata's long life has been an odyssey through his own dark ages and those of the last century. His protests against his time and place culminated in his war-time betrayal of Nazi Germany, when he risked his life and effectively ensured his rootlessness. His further search for roots and meaning as well as freedom took him to the East, where he became a Buddhist monk, through Amrit Ananda at Swayambhu. Returning to his adopted country, Norway, he lectured on Buddhism, and began the slow process of unravelling, interpreting and dealing with the sufferings of his life. Today Sugata lives quietly in a mountain cabin near Geilo, Norway.

Patan Musuem, Durbar Square, Patan, Kathmandu
Exhibition sale and Book launch 5-8pm Sunday October 10, 2004
Exhibition and sale open 10-4pm October 11-15

For further information please contact:

rachelkellett@rediffmail.com | www.sugata.info

Mandala Book Point | Tel: 4227711 | www.mandalabookpoint.com

Chhairo Gompa Restoration Project, Cultural Restoration Tourism Project, California,
www.crtp.net

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Mandala Publishers
cordially invite you to the book launch of

'Bird of Passage'
by Sugata and Rachel Kellett

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exhibition and sale of photographs:

Kathmandu & Kali Gandaki 1955-1960

from the odyssey of a Western Buddhist monk, original black and white photographs
taken by Sugata
to benefit the Chhairo Gompa restoration fund.

Patan Musuem, Durbar Square, Patan, Kathmandu
Sunday October 10th, 2004, 5pm

RSVP Mandala Book Point: 4227711 / 4249555
or Rachel@sugata.info

www.sugata.info
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