

Recent Books from Nepal – Feb 2019

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Architecture

A Blessing For The Land: The Architecture, Art and History of A Buddhist Convent in Mustang, Nepal / John Harrison (et al.)
Kathmandu: Vajra Books, 2018
144p.
9789937928823
\$ 40.00 / HB
760gm

In Nepal's Mustang District, on the right bank of the Kali Gandaki river facing the large settlement of Tshug (Chusang), is a low hill known as Gönpa Gang, the "convent ridge." Standing on the ridge are the remains of a Buddhist site, Künzang Chöling. Until recently, nothing was known about the building beyond the fact that it had once been a nunnery, and it is hard now to imagine that a local ruler in the 17th century, awed by its majestic proportions and its exquisite paintings, exclaimed that it was "the jewel in the crown of the realm." This book brings to light a forgotten gem of Nepal's architectural and artistic heritage, while the archives of the community offer a window onto the lives of the lama who built it "as a blessing for the land," and of the nuns for whom it was a center of spiritual activity for almost three centuries.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=467449>

Art

Mustang: In Black and White / Kevin Bubriski & Sienna Craig (Ed) Pam Ross
Kathmandu: Vajra Books, 2018
152p. ; High Quality Fox Fine Textured Paper ; B&W Pictures.
Includes Bibliography
9789937623872
\$ 45.00 / HB
1095gm.

Much has been philosophized about black and white. It was Eugene Smith (1918-1978) who commenced this working style in a powerful way... Kevin Bubriski shares this sensibility with Smith... It is all about marking places. - *Niels Gutschow*
In the Indigenous Tibetan world-view, creation does not arise from a void; it happens at the margins, and the ultimate margin is the meeting place of light and dark, the boundary of being and non-being, a quality that is so keenly captured throughout this book... Sometimes, darkness is the best place in which to see the cosmos in its full radiance. - *Charles Ramble*
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=496333>

Silence No Longer : Artivism of Ashmina / (Ed) Ashmina Ranjit (et al.)
Kathmandu: Vajra Books, 2018
xvi, 163p.
Includes Bibliography
9789937928830
\$ 50.00 / HB
925gm.

With women and their lived experiences as her major themes - many people call Ashmina Ranjit a feminist. Her oeuvre includes paintings, installation and performance art and despite its very strong focus on 'women' as subjects, is not limited to it. She has effectively used art to magnify her voice about issues that she strongly feels for - issues ranging from oppression, the taboo issues of women's identity, sexuality and menstruation but also environmental and hard political issues. Artist is exactly what she is. Her sensitivity- matched by the range of themes, forms and mediums that she uses - create works of art that disturb people, push them out of their comfort zone, make them think, and spur them to act.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=496334>

History

Witnessing Palace, Power and Politics : Memoir Of A Military Secretary / Vivek Kumar Shah (Ed) Peter J. Karthak (Translator) Ghanashan Raj Kafle

Kathmandu: FinePrint Books, 2018

xxviii, 468p.

Includes Index

9789937665421

\$ 20.00 / HB

705gm.

A memoir of a former military secretary, it takes us deep into the intrigues at the Narayanhiti Rooyal Palace and provide an inside-view into the momentous events of our times: the Royal Massacre, King Gyanendra's wresting of all executive powers, the Maoists' armed rebellion and its genesis and the forces backing it, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between Nepal's mainstream political parties and the Maoists, the end of monarchy, and the arrival of republicanism in Nepal. Written with courage and at great personal risk, the book is a must for anyone wanting to understand the contemporary history of Nepal.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=496335>

Thamel through Time : Commemorating 50 Years of Kathmandu Guest House and Thamel, 1968-2018 / Benjamin Linder (Ed) Shaguni Singh Sakya

Thamel: KGH Publications, 2018

144p. ; 300 x 217mm.

9789937046565

\$ 30.00 / HB

880gm.

Is there anywhere else in the world that can rival Thamel for its addictive kaleidoscope of sensory bombardment? The moment you enter its hallowed boundaries you are assaulted from all sides in ways that either want to make you run for your hotel to take stock on what you just entered into. Or, as happens to many a traveler, bask in its frenzy.

Thamel is a cacophony of souvenir stalls, trekking shops, restaurants and heritage

Love it or hate it Kathmandu's quintessential hub of guesthouses, trekking agents, souvenir stores, restaurants and cafes is near on impossible to avoid and neither should you try to avoid it. Thamel is one of those "once in a lifetime" experiences everyone should try at least once.

At the center of Thamel sits one of its most iconic buildings, Kathmandu Guest House. Credited for being the first guesthouse to open in Thamel and the one that kick started tourism in this area of Kathmandu. In 2018 Kathmandu Guest House celebrated its 50th anniversary.

As part of the celebration they published a book "Thamel Through Time" which takes a historic look at Thamel from its ancient origins all the way to its modern status. Along the way Thamel Through Time shows us how Kathmandu Guest House entered into history within Thamel, how it got started, the troubles, the celebrations, the devastating earthquake and the future.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=496336>

Literature

A New Dawn / Mamata Pant Mishra

Kathmandu: Vajra Books, 2018

viii, 276p.

9789937928854

\$ 10.00 / PB

355gm.

Love, temptation, and desire are some of the most remarkable human feelings. These feelings are healthy when kept within the limits, however, if exceeded, one must prepare for destruction. This story is about me - Jara, and how became a victim to my emotions.

Mamata Pant is currently residing in Australia. She is full-time mother and service holder, however, she has still managed to pursue her passion in creative writing. "A New Dawn" is her first novel and she has written several poetries in Nepali language. She has high hopes to write many more along the journey of her life.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=496337>

The Magical Monkey of Swayambhu / Luke Davis (Illustrated) Ratna Sagar

Shrestha

Kathmandu: Vajra Books, 2018

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9789937928861

\$ 14.95 / PB

245gm.

The Magical Monkey of Swayambhu tells a story of a brave monkey. Machig, who is advised by a Lama to go on a journey to find the medicine that might heal Machig's ailing mother. Each being he encounters on his journey shares their own teachings and helps the monkey along his path complete with white-water rapids, wild buffalo, elephants, crocodiles and wise teachers. At the end of the story, the monkey gives his own teachings on what he learned from the journey - Courage, Compassion, interdependence, and the will to never give up.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=496338>

Religion - Buddhism

Words of a Gentle Sage : Collected Teachings of Khenchen Appey Rinpoche, Vol. 1 / (Ed) Christian Bernert (Foreword) HH the 41st Sakya Trizin

Kathmandu: Vajra Books, 2018

xxxii, 226p.

Includes Bibliography

Buddhist Path Series

9789937928847

\$ 16.00 / PB

365gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=496339>

Emptiness in Indian Buddhism / Musashi Tachikawa

Kathmandu: Vajra Books, 2018

xii, 196p.

Includes Bibliography

9789937928809

Content:

1. The philosophy of Nagarjuna.
2. Interpretations of emptiness in India and China.
3. The meaning of dependent origination.
4. Own being and emptiness.

\$ 16.00/ PB

290gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=496340>
