

Live Encounters celebrates 7 years 2010-2016

# Live encounters

## Photography

Free online magazine from village earth

Volume Three December 2016

ON PHOTOGRAPHY  
JILL GOCHER





Photograph of two Buddhist monk novices, Laos, by Mark Ulyseas

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Live Encounters is a not-for-profit free online magazine that was founded in 2009 in Bali, Indonesia. It showcases some of the best writing from around the world. Civil and human rights activists, animal rights activists, poets, writers, journalists, social workers and more have contributed their time and knowledge for the benefit of the readers of the magazine.

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**Cover Photograph; Street lit banana trees on a full moon night, Laos, by Mark Ulyseas**



# CONTRIBUTORS

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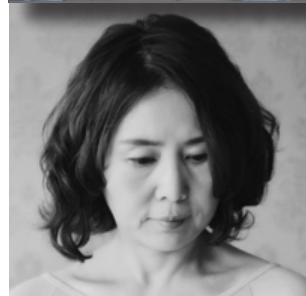


## Guest Editorial and feature on Boudhanath

Jill Gocher

Bali based international photographer has spent her life exploring and enjoying Asian cultures. Her work has appeared in National Geographic, Time, International Herald Tribune, Asia Spa, Discovery, Silver Kris and many more. Her books - Asia's legendary Hotels, Periplus, Bali- Island of Light -Marshall Cavendish, Indonesia - Islands of the Imagination. Periplus, Australia - the land down under - Times Editions, Singapore, Indonesia - the last paradise - Times Editions. She has held exhibitions in Singapore, Kathmandu, and Bali.

[www.amazon.com/author/jillgocher](http://www.amazon.com/author/jillgocher)



## Homage to Kāśi

Mikyoung Cha

Mikyoung Cha is a graduate in Oriental Painting from Hyosung Women's University, Daegu, South Korea. She has participated in a number of group art exhibitions in South Korea and Japan. For a number of years she assisted her husband in landscape designing and recently took up photography – the camera becoming her paint brush. This photo feature is part of series, documenting the cities of the world she visits.



## A Fishy Story

Lopamudra Talukdar

Lopamudra was fascinated by the world of photography ever since she was a child but never thought of taking it up seriously until she was gifted a Canon 5D Mark II as recently as 2010. She is particularly captivated by the diversity of Indian culture and how different it can be from Kashmir to Kanyakumari! Her photographs have been accepted and exhibited by International Salons. She has been awarded the honour of AFIAP by the Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique. Her works have also been published in numerous Travel magazines.



## Nature in Holland

Andre de Haan

Andre de Haan lives in the Netherlands. Started in 1977 with photography as a hobby. He studied photography and took part in numerous workshops of other successful photographers. He did several exhibitions, worked for companies, still does workshops in which he combines photography and processing in Photoshop and is a member of 2 photo groups. He covers {studio} model/ portrait, architecture, business/ product photography and nature.



## The Aga village

Luciana Ferrero

From Italy. Lived in Indonesia for 38 years, worked as a translator/ interpreter. Started interest in photography in the 70s when working for a photographer in Barcelona. Left this passion for many years as I lived in various jungle areas of Indonesia and resumed photography when digital cameras appeared. Moved to Bali and concentrated on photographing the traditions of a “disappearing Bali”. Another project I have concerns the Sikerei group of the Mentawai islands and document their daily life in the long houses.



## Durga Puja

Sourav Jourdar

Sourav Jourdar is a photographer for *Uttarbanga Sambad*, the largest circulated daily in the region. Prior to this he was with *The Statesman* from 2008 to 2013. Born and brought up in Siliguri, a cosmopolitan town in Darjeeling district of West Bengal known as the Gateway to the Northeast. He completed his education in 2004. Siliguri played its role in having instilled this passion of photography in him with its exquisite natural charm. Sourav is unshakably convinced that this is the only profession in the world that would never make one bored. [www.facebook.com/souravjourdar](http://www.facebook.com/souravjourdar)

## Celebrating 7 years 2010-2016

Live  
encounters

VOLUME THREE  
DECEMBER 2016



## Home of the traveler

Eleanor Moseman

Eleanor Moseman is a photographer and solo explorer that documents and shares stories of ancient civilizations and disappearing traditions throughout Asia. Focusing her work on women among religious cultures, working class, those enslaved in poverty; she gives a voice to many that may never be heard or recognized. Raised from humble beginnings in Appalachia, she is an activist and storyteller. When not roaming around Asia alone and, living among locals in far-flung regions of the world, she is photographing architecture and interior spaces throughout China.



## Phuket, Thailand: not just another fantasy island

Mark L Chaves

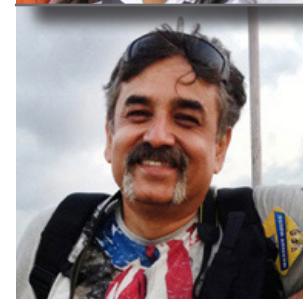
Mark is a freelance writer and photographer based in Bali, Indonesia. He is an active contributor for [diaforlife](http://diaforlife.com), [InBali.org](http://InBali.org), and [Balipedia](http://Balipedia.com). Follow Mark's photography portfolio on [tumblr](http://tumblr.com/marklchaves) and [eyeem](http://eyeem.com/marklchaves). <http://marklchaves.com>



## The Sacred Janggan

Tjandra Hutama K

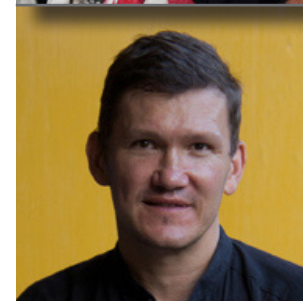
Tjandra Hutama K was born in 1981, April 12th. He is a Leader of the “Bali Photography Organization” (PFB 2016-2019), passion in documentary & salon of Art Photography, he has participated in photo competitions and received many awards.



## Incredible India

Vivek Mehra

Mehra is currently Managing Director and CEO, SAGE publications India. He has an MBA in Marketing from Columbia University, New York and a B.Sc. in Textile Technology from the Fashion Institute of Technology, New York. He teaches a course on Managing a Publishing Enterprise and Publishing in a Globalised World at the Post Graduate level, at the Ambedkar University, New Delhi. Member of the CII National Committee on IP for 2013-14. In July 2013 he finally self-published his maiden novel ‘Seven Shades of Grey’ written in 1999. [www.notionpress.com/seven-shades-of-grey](http://www.notionpress.com/seven-shades-of-grey)



## Geikos in Kyoto

Joo Peter

Aka Joachim Peter is a Visual artist and writer based in Southwest Germany, presently working on documentary & travel photography in Asia right. He loves to explore and combine all arts in his work. Joo has studied Arts; painting and graphics, worked for theatre ( designing stage, costume and light) , did some work for television and film, went into teaching. He writes essays and a blog in his native tongue, German, for he feels his language combines philosophy and humour.



## Etcetera

Mark Ulyseas

Ulyseas is founder and editor of Live Encounters Magazine and Live Encounters Poetry. He is the author of three books: *RAINY – My friend & Philosopher*, *Seductive Avatars of Maya – Anthology of Dystopian Lives* and *In Gethsemane: Transcripts of a Journey*. <http://www.amazon.com/author/markulyseas>



Bali based international photographer has spent her life exploring and enjoying Asian cultures. Her work has appeared in National Geographic, Time, International Herald Tribune, Asia Spa, Discovery, Silver Kris and many more. Her books - Asia's legendary Hotels, Periplus, Bali- Island of Light - Marshall Cavendish, Indonesia - Islands of the Imagination. Periplus, Australia - the land down under - Times Editions, Singapore, Indonesia - the last paradise - Times Editions. She has held exhibitions in Singapore, Kathmandu, and Bali. [www.amazon.com/author/jillgocher](http://www.amazon.com/author/jillgocher)



Kampa Cowboy, Lithang. Photograph by Jill Gocher



## On Photography *a few words*

**Jill Gocher**

Photojournalist, Editor, Media Consultant

*"I'm a photographer, period. I love photography, the immediacy of it. I like the craft, the idea of saying 'I'm a photographer.'" David LaChapelle*

I love that David LaChapelle's words ring true. Sometime people say to me "are you still doing photography?" as if it is some minor flirtation, a passing phase rather than a life long passion. Photography is more than what you do, it is who you are! I believe that once a photographer, always a photographer. When it takes hold of you and leads you on to always just finding that one fabulous shot, or just waiting for that perfect light to find a break in the clouds, you pretty well know you are there. While for some it is writing that thrills, grappling with the words, or for others, some kind of passive entertainment, photography kind of includes all and does away for the need of external stimulation. It is always there. Whether wandering around with your iphone, or getting serious, humping lots of heavy equipment, there is an aim in your day with a quiet satisfaction that less creative pursuits can never provide.



“There is only you and your camera. The limitations in your photography are in yourself, for what we see is what we are.” - Ernst Haas



Himalayas - the first sighting of the Himalaya as they rise from the Gangetic Plain somewhere between Bangladesh and northern India © Jill Gocher

Mention photography and you will get a reaction. It is a topic that can arouse strange passions, and while it is a private affair, it is also public, as we like people to view what we have discovered or created. We can always go and exhibit our work and wait for the feedback. One of my favourite quotes on photography was made by Earnest Haas, himself a celebrated photographer, who explains that an artist starts off with a blank canvas and is free to put on it what pleases. A photographer, though starts from the perspective of the crowded jumble of life and it is up to us to extract from that crowdedness, to impose our own personal viewpoint and maybe possibly, find beauty there as well.

Because making, or taking a photograph is deceptively simple, - just a click of the button really, everyone thinks they are a photographer and granted, while modern technology has made photography (and making technically perfect pictures), available to the many, it still takes a vision, a certain perspective to give the wow factor, the unique vision, that makes it personally yours.

Whether it is a slant of sunlight, or a scene or a little quirk that catches the eye, there is always something new to photograph. It teaches us to see. To look beyond the banal or beyond our nose and see the world as it is – with all its humour, and quirks and great humanity. No doubt before the digital age, it was more serious but no more valid. It is just that today there are more people making great photos.

*It is more important to click with people than click with the shutter - Alfred Eisenstaedt*

This quote by Alfred Eisenstaedt sums it up succinctly. Even when we are clicking the shutter, it is very nice to make a connection with the subject, rather than treat it as an object. Of course some times being a neutral observer is also effective, but save the world from those who treat people as objects with not a shred of respect for the soul they are photographing. Eisenstaedt was well known German photojournalist, most famous [for his celebrated photograph of V-J Day](#) in Times Square, New York.

And while we are on the subject of portraits and people here is a quote from Annie Leibovitz ; *“I think that emotional content is an image’s most important element, regardless of the photographic technique. Much of the work I see these days lacks the emotional impact to draw a reaction from viewers, or remain in their hearts.”*

We need to engage our hearts in our work, as there are some very dry photos going the rounds. Unless we engage, there is nothing more than a record, a showing of an event without engagement.

A camera becomes far more than just a tool. It is a friend, a companion and while ever you carry your camera, you are not alone and your life has purpose. It can even accompany you to a pub for a drink while you lay it down for a rest while you revive your own spirits.

*“There is only you and your camera. The limitations in your photography are in yourself, for what we see is what we are.”* Ernst Haas

To finish off, here are the words of George Eastman – who we have to thank for popularising roll film around 160 years ago and creating Kodak – which first brought photography within reach of everyone. He too, speaks the truth of photography; *“Light makes photography. Embrace light. Admire it. Love it. But above all, know light. Know it for all you are worth, and you will know the key to photography.”*



## THE WORLD OF BOUDHANATH

PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
**JILL GOCHER**

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Just outside Kathmandu is the huge stupa of Boudhanath and ancient relic of former times. Around it has grown a whole community of Tibetans and devout followers as well as many gumpa (monasteries), some of which welcome westerners to study the Dharma. It is a holy place where the sacred mixes with the profane - and commerce is an integral part of it. Holy relics, religious paraphernalia, antiques, beads and charms are sold to the never ending chanting of Om Mani Padme Hum sold in teeny cd shops next to others selling Benares brocade, warm clothing and of course, cheap Chinese manufactured goods.

Boudha is a world unto itself and let us pray that the increasingly heavy pressure from the Chinese will not destroy it.

Om Mani Padme Hum

[www.jill-gochoer.jimdo.com/](http://www.jill-gochoer.jimdo.com/)  
[www.amazon.com/author/jillgocher](http://www.amazon.com/author/jillgocher)



The twin stupas of Boudhanath stand serenely. This is the most holy Buddhist pilgrimage site in the whole of Nepal and attracts Buddhists from all across the Tibetan diaspora. Sadly, as China cosies up to Nepal, the Tibetans are having an increasingly tough time, even within the sanctuary of Nepal.





Prayer flags flutter from the top of the holy stupa. The devout bring them to send prayers of love and peace as far as the winds will scatter them.



Prayer flags.





The huge stone place where offerings and juniper are burnt all day, giving the whole of the Boudha the intoxicating scent which evokes the Himalayan region.



Every day the devout and the curious wander about the stupas of Boudhanath taking in the heady atmosphere





In the evenings, the kora circuit becomes a marketplace as people set up stalls selling votive candles to those who wish to make offerings.



Votive candles.



Mikyoung Cha is a graduate in Oriental Painting from Hyosung Women's University, Daegu, South Korea. She has participated in a number of group art exhibitions in South Korea and Japan. For a number of years she assisted her husband in landscape designing and recently took up photography – the camera becoming her paint brush.



## HOMAGE TO KĀŚĪ

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKYOUNG CHA

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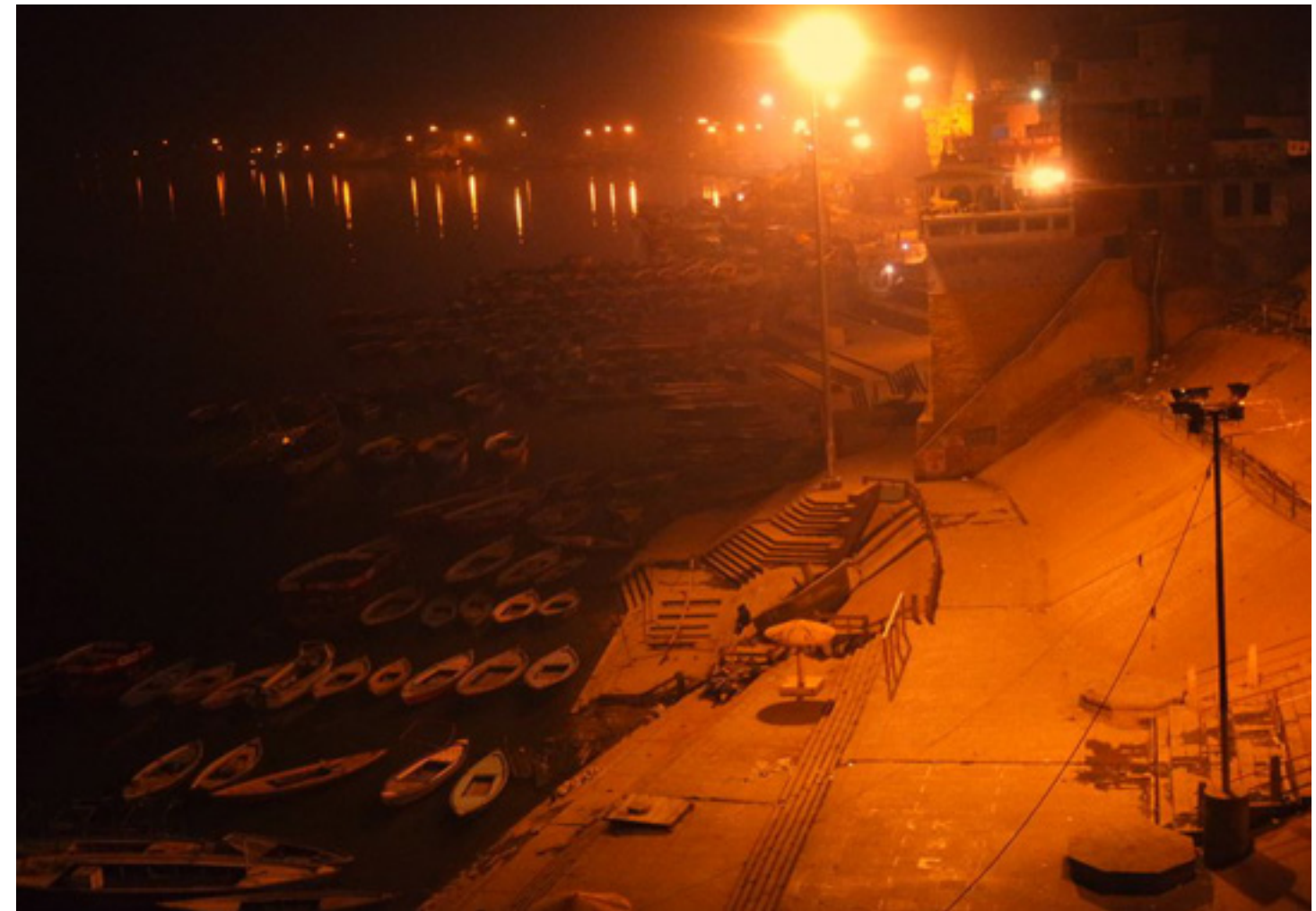
How does one describe the ancient city of Kāśī\* - the living celebrating the spirits, the aroma of sandalwood, dhoop, the floral tributes and offerings, the smell of cowdung, the smiles, and deep reverence for the power of Mother Ganga - from puja in the first rays of the sun and the Ganga aarti at sunset to the chants of the faithful?

Dashashwamedh Ghat is the main ghat in Kāśī on the River Ganga. It is located close to Vishwanath Temple. Two Hindu legends are associated with it: According to one, Lord Brahma created it to welcome Lord Shiva. According to another legend, Lord Brahma sacrificed ten horses during Dasa-Ashwamedha yajna, which was performed here.\*\*

Every evening a group of priests perform the “Agni Pooja” - a dedication is made to Lord Shiva, River Ganga (the Ganges), Surya (Sun), Agni (Fire), and the whole universe. Special aartis are held on Tuesdays and on religious festivals.\*\*

This is the India I know, I love.

\* also known as Varanasi and Benares in the Indian State of Uttar Pradesh \*\* wikipedia



Dasaswamedh Ghat when the living sleep.





Evening Ganga Aarti, at Dashashwamedh ghat.



Evening Ganga Aarti, at Dashashwamedh ghat.





Multi-tiered aarti stand being lit, for Ganga Aarti.



Incense Aarti at Dashaswamedh ghat.





Hot pulkas (chapatis) with mixed vegetable curry and dal fry for dinner after the Ganga aarti.



Hindu pilgrims, an elderly couple, walking down to Dasaswamedh Ghat to bathe in the Ganga, a ritual practiced for thousands of years.



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<https://www.flickr.com/cameraroll/?mapReady=1> <https://www.instagram.com/lopamudra/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/lopa.talukdar>



## A FISHY STORY

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LOPAMUDRA TALUKDAR

India has been blessed with one of the longest coastlines in the world and fishing is one of the primary occupations of the people living along the coast. The industry is still largely disorganised as people go out on small to medium sized boats and bring them to harbours which have spot auctions and the fish changes hand a number of times since then, till it reaches the final consumer. Have you ever thought what goes on from when a fish is caught till it appears in your local market? A lot actually, as I found out during some of my visits to the Malabar coast, more specifically the South Karnataka coast.

This stretch of the Arabian Sea coast is rich in marine life. From time immemorial people of this region have been venturing out into the sea and bringing back a rich haul of fish, Sardines and Mackerels being the most popular variety. The coast is dotted with small to large fishing harbours, usually situated in river estuaries. These harbours also double up as fish auction houses where each morning traders converge to buy huge lots in open auctions. The fish is then packed in iced crates and transported to distant places. These harbours are interesting places buzzing with activities. and people from different parts of India, speaking in different languages all at the same time. Retail stalls are also set up on the harbour itself where locals can buy the fresh catch in small quantities.

However, all these changes in the non fishing season. From the beginning of June till the middle of August, none of the mechanised fishing vessels are allowed to venture out to the sea. This is when a different set of people have the busiest time of the season. These are the people who repair the boats or the ones who make the nets.



Colourful fishing boats anchored at a harbour, all set to head out to the Arabian Sea.





Boats come in with a rich catch at the crack of dawn, it is mostly the job of the women folk to unload and sort the fish.



Fish on display, waiting for the auction to begin.





It is time for the fish to be put into containers and for a refrigerated journey to distant markets.



Local buyers can also have a share of the catch as retail fish sellers set up stall on the harbour front.





Apart from the bigger boats, smaller boats like the one here, manned by one or two fishermen also head out closer to the coast.



End of business day, it is time to haul in the nets and clean them for the next day.



Andre de Haan lives in the Netherlands. Started in 1977 with photography as a hobby. He studied photography and took part in numerous workshops of other successful photographers. He did several exhibitions, worked for companies, still does workshops in which he combines photography and processing in Photoshop and is a member of 2 photo groups. He covers {studio} model/ portrait, architecture, business/ product photography and nature. [www.facebook.com/andre.dehaan.3](https://www.facebook.com/andre.dehaan.3)  
His websites are under construction and will be go live early 2017.



## NATURE IN HOLLAND

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDRE DE HAAN

*Netherlands* literally means *lower countries*, influenced by its low land and flat geography, with only about 50% of its land exceeding one metre above sea level. Most of the areas below sea level are man-made and protected by dykes.

Holland is a very green country though there is not much (wild) nature left. Most of the *nature* areas are owned by the state and conservation organisations that maintain the areas. Maintain nature? Yes, because we are control freaks! We don't like nature as it is and we want it to fit in our lives. Because of this, it costs a lot to make or keep it this way. You could even argue whether we live in nature or in a park in Holland as so much money is spent every year to *create* our *nature*. Due to the high density of people and traffic, almost all protected areas are surrounded by high fences to avoid accidents with animals living in the woods.

In the protected zone, nature is easily accessible on foot or by bike. Holland is flat, very flat. The highest hill is 334m above sea level. But if you know when and where to look you can still find beauty and silence.



The dragonfly is a fine example of early morning photography. Too late and they fly away whenever you approach them. You have to catch them when they are still cold and can't fly yet.

© Andre de Haan





This river at sunrise.



Deer are not common in the whole country. Because of the density of people there are no great opportunities to spot them in the wild. However, in a few parks you have a good chance of spotting them.





Birds are quite common in Holland but many of them are migratory and hence pass through in large flocks.



Tulips, one of the endearing symbols of Holland from another perspective.





Frogs, in almost every pond you can find these little friends. This one and I had a bit of an understanding.



These mushrooms are mainly found in autumn and winter. They need damp conditions to thrive.



From Italy. Lived in Indonesia for 38 years, worked as a translator/ interpreter. Started interest in photography in the 70s when working for a photographer in Barcelona. Left this passion for many years as I lived in various jungle areas of Indonesia and resumed photography when digital cameras appeared. Moved to Bali and concentrated on photographing the traditions of a “disappearing Bali”. Another project I have concerns the Sikerei group of the Mentawai islands and document their daily life in the long houses.



## TENGANAN PEGRINGSINGAN

### PHOTOGRAPHS BY LUCIANA FERRERO

Bali villages are a real treasure trove for the keen photographer and Tenganan Pegringsingan is of particular interest for its uniqueness, mysticism and beauty. Nestled in a valley surrounded by lush green forest in the district of Karangasem, it is the village of the autochthonous Aga people of Bali, the weavers of the mystical geringsing cloth worn by all villagers during their frequent and unique ceremonies, and in particular by the Daha.

Daha is the name given to the girls belonging to the association of the village’s unmarried girls that they join at puberty and where they remain for 13 years or until they are married. The Daha spend much time together and develop very strong and lasting relationships as they learn the sacred ceremonies of the village. They perform a sacred dance called Rejang where they don their gringsing heirlooms and gold adornments, dance in front of the Balai Agung, swaying gently and elegantly to the sound of the Selonding.



The Daha perform an early morning ceremony on a hill surrounding the village.





The Daha perform an early morning ceremony on a hill surrounding the village.



Daha and future Daha dance the rejang sacred dance.





On the sacred swing. The swing is erected every year during a month of ceremonies. The Daha all have to take a turn and swing 3 times to the north and 3 times to the south.



The two newest Daha learning to make offerings.





Young village girls in their finest grinsing cloth waiting to start the Rejang dance.



After a long day of ceremonies, the Daha prepare for the last night ceremony.



Sourav Jourdar is a photographer for *Uttarbanga Sambad*, the largest circulated daily in the region. Prior to this he was with *The Statesman* from 2008 to 2013. Born and brought up in Siliguri, a cosmopolitan town in Darjeeling district of West Bengal known as the Gateway to the North-east. He completed his education in 2004. Siliguri played its role in having instilled this passion of photography in him with its exquisite natural charm. Sourav is unshakably convinced that this is the only profession in the world that would never make one bored. [www.facebook.com/sourav.jourdar](http://www.facebook.com/sourav.jourdar)



## DURGA PUJA

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SOURAV JOURDAR

Although observed throughout the country in its different manifestations, *Durga Puja* is the mother of all festivals in the Indian State of West Bengal. It spans six days in keeping with the Hindu almanac.

*Basanti Durga Puja* is observed in late spring between March and April in limited areas. The popular form *Sharadiya Durga Puja* is celebrated in autumn between September and October.

The puja (worship) signifies Goddess Durga's, who is believed to be Himalaya's daughter and the spouse of Lord Shiva, sojourn to her father's place with her four children. Goddess Durga is synonymous with good prevailing over evil and oppression.

Once a household ritual, Durga Puja has evolved into a community affair and takes the shape of a protracted jamboree in West Bengal. Puja budgets can run anywhere between US\$ 5,000 to over US \$500,000 attracting corporate involvement and showcasing exquisite art forms and illuminations.



Artist taking a break.





Artist putting the finishing touches to a Durga idol.



Artist at work in a large warehouse.





Goddess Durga in all her splendour.



Goddess Durga in all her splendour.





Pandals are fabricated temporary structures used for religious functions. This lavish pandal has been built to display the idol of Goddess Durga.



An exquisite pandal housing the idol of Goddess Durga.





## HOME OF THE TRAVELER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ELEANOR MOSEMAN

Home of the traveler represents more than a temporary place of rest but a private space for daily reflection and personal exploration. It's a sanctuary where a wanderer allows the stress and worries that come with surviving unknown lands and among strange, yet extraordinary, cultures. A personal temple where the devotee of a path can meditate among their reticent thoughts and boundless emotions with revelations of personal growth, like that of a blooming lotus. The modest space of a nomad that is only decorated with essential possessions and esoteric tools for continuing and planning the migration onward. It's a room of respite that is essential to the personal evolution that occurs during a pilgrimage through the world and life.

Each room represents a vital stage in the development of a traveler, as chrysalis is to the kingdom of insects. The room is a habitation where cleaning and recovery occurs while the slow and continuous transformation transpires. These rooms contained a nomad's physical presence and material possessions while also providing a place of solitude to safely discover and meticulously explore her psyche.



Inside a Tibetan nomad's tent that will only be used one night as they pack and prepare to move to the lowlands for winter. Southeast shore of Lake Namu (Namucuo), Tibet Autonomous Region. August 30, 2011





The offered, and accepted, corner in milkmaid’s wood hut in the mountains of Shangrila. Border of Yunnan and Sichuan Province, China. June 24, 2011.



Final night of the Minya Konka trek spent in the 500 year old Mount Gongga Temple for 30RMB. Base camp of Mt. Gongga, Garzê Tibetan Prefecture, Sichuan, China. October 8, 2015.





A room in the mountains of Kham, Tibet that is shared with a Tibetan friend as her husband continues to make a mountain road accessible to automobiles. Near Danba, Sichuan, China. September 28, 2014.



The single room house of a young Tibetan couple and their new infant. During the night, the sound of the mice is terrifying and even more so when they burrow under blankets. Near Sidingcuo, Garze, Sichuan Province, China. October 2, 2014.





A very humble and cold room in a 3-level Tibetan home, shared with the elderly mother and her teenage daughter. Near Dengzha, Garze, Sichuan, China. October 5, 2014



A new room extension on a traditional 3 level Tibetan home, shared with a teenage girl that is home for China National Day. (Photographs of the Dalai Lama are forbidden and punishable by law.) Bogu, Sichuan, China. October 4, 2014.





## PHUKET THAILAND

not just another fantasy island

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK L CHAVES

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When author Colin Mackay began writing a book on Phuket's history, a local (wrongly) remarked, "That'll be a short book." Once dubbed as "Thailand's centre of sin and decadence," Phuket has a few surprises waiting in the wings.

Phuket lies off Thailand's west coast in the Andaman Sea. I had done zero research before I arrived on the idyllic shores of the country's largest island. After fending off the initial barrage of elephant rides and party boat excursions, Phuket's alternative offerings began to materialise. Khao Phra Thaeo National Park, the buried Buddha at Wat Phra Thong, Old Town's Sino-Portuguese architecture, and the Thalang District local's scene would be shoo-ins for my top picks. But, what ended up attracting me the most was the openness and diversity of Phuket's people.



The 'longtail' boat is a way of life on the waterways of Phuket.





Afternoon Muay Thai practice in Yamu village.



Hundreds of offering bells adorn the grounds of the Big Buddha shrine.





A woman strides by Old Town Phuket's famous Sino-Portuguese architecture.



Early morning school commuters pass an image of His Majesty, Rama IX.





On the weekends, the streets of Old Town Phuket transform into an open air market.



Taking a break from working on Phuket's largest project--the Big Buddha shrine.



Tjandra Hutama heads the "Bali Photography Organization" (PFB 2016-2019). His passion is in documentary and salon art photography. He has participated in photo competitions and received many awards. [www.indonesianfineart.org](http://www.indonesianfineart.org) [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)



## THE SACRED JANGGAN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TJANDRA HUTAMA K

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Janggan is a traditional Balinese kite with a unique shape - the head of a dragon - it has a tail length of up to 200 meters, in the typical dominant colors of red, black, and white, symbolising Tridatu (the god Trimurti, Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva). Janggan is a sacred kite, where the manufacturing, storage, carrying and raising, all require Balinese Hindu rituals. The Bali Kite Festival, which is held each year on the windy coast of Padang Galak, Sanur, is a sight to behold.

Built jointly at the communal 'banjar' village halls all over Bali, skilled youths, supervised by elders, craft bamboo frameworks for weeks leading up to the major event. Lightweight fabrics are selected according to an agreed-upon colour scheme and some are fitted with intricately carved heads. The final results await transport to the grounds, usually by truck and due to their huge size, require special escorts along Bali's small roads. The aim is to honor the gods in manifestations as Rare Angon, which is the kite god. All the ceremonial events are held for harmony in the Land and the people's lives.



Togetherness and cooperation.





Purify is the important thing to do.



The Banjar Community in action.





Sometimes sadness arises due to the failure of raising a kite.



The head of the Janggan.





Equipment and style of the players.

The short tail Janggan category.



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## INCREDIBLE INDIA

PHOTOGRAPHS BY VIVEK MEHRA

India's true diversity lies in its adaptability not just to cultures but to circumstance.

Presently, there are 720 *living* languages.\* It is the birth place of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism. Despite the richness of its culture there exists another India.

The following images reflect the paradoxes of this ancient land.

\* Professor Ganesh Devy, *The People Linguistic Survey of India* [LINK](#)



Where the aged are revered, there are still many who have to work to survive. This octogenarian was abandoned by her family but still managed to make a living. This photograph was taken a few years ago. She passed away last year; unconfirmed information says she passed away while selling flowers.

© Vivek Mehra





Orderly chaos - In a country of 1.2 billion people everyone jostles for space. This street is for pedestrians only and while people drift through crowds, the skies fight to be seen in a crowd of banners and hoardings.



In stark contrast to the plains, the hills in India are dotted with quaint towns. This is Mussoorie the queen of the hills at night. It is caught between the India of yore and the India of today.





Public transportation is virtually nonexistent especially in tier 2 towns. India probably has the largest population of two wheelers on the planet; it surely has the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles. It is common to see families traveling on a bike meant for two; here is a family of 5



Cycle rickshaws are great way to get around smaller towns





India is a tourist destination. Here are visitors of a different type. These Russian Gulls make the Ganges their home in winter. Indian hospitality is extended to them and folks ensure these winged visitors are well fed.



Come to India to be amazed but be ready to amaze India. While foreigners marvel at snake charmers, natives curiously watch the foreigners. This is not just India, it's Incredible India





## GEIKOS IN KYOTO

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOO PETER

Geikos (that's what Geishas are called in Kyoto) always remind me of Zen monks – a Westerner can't imagine discipline, ascetic life and dedication necessary to perform this art.

Meikos (Geisha apprentices) sleep every night with their head resting precisely in a special position on a wooden pillar, so the elaborate hair dressing is not damaged.

In Kyoto, I discovered less known connections between Zen and the world of Geikos. Their teahouses are just next to the oldest Zen temple in town, a major origin of the tea ceremony, which is such an important part in the arts of Geikos (which means art-person) and Japanese culture as a whole, focused in the tradition of Geikos. Putting on the white make-up dissolves all personal aspects, selfless, timeless.

In an Onsen (hot bath) a well-educated Japanese asked me: *"Do you know the difference between Buddhism and Shinto?"* He smiled and added the well-considered, but provocative and enlightening enlightening statement: *"...because we Japanese don't see any difference".*

















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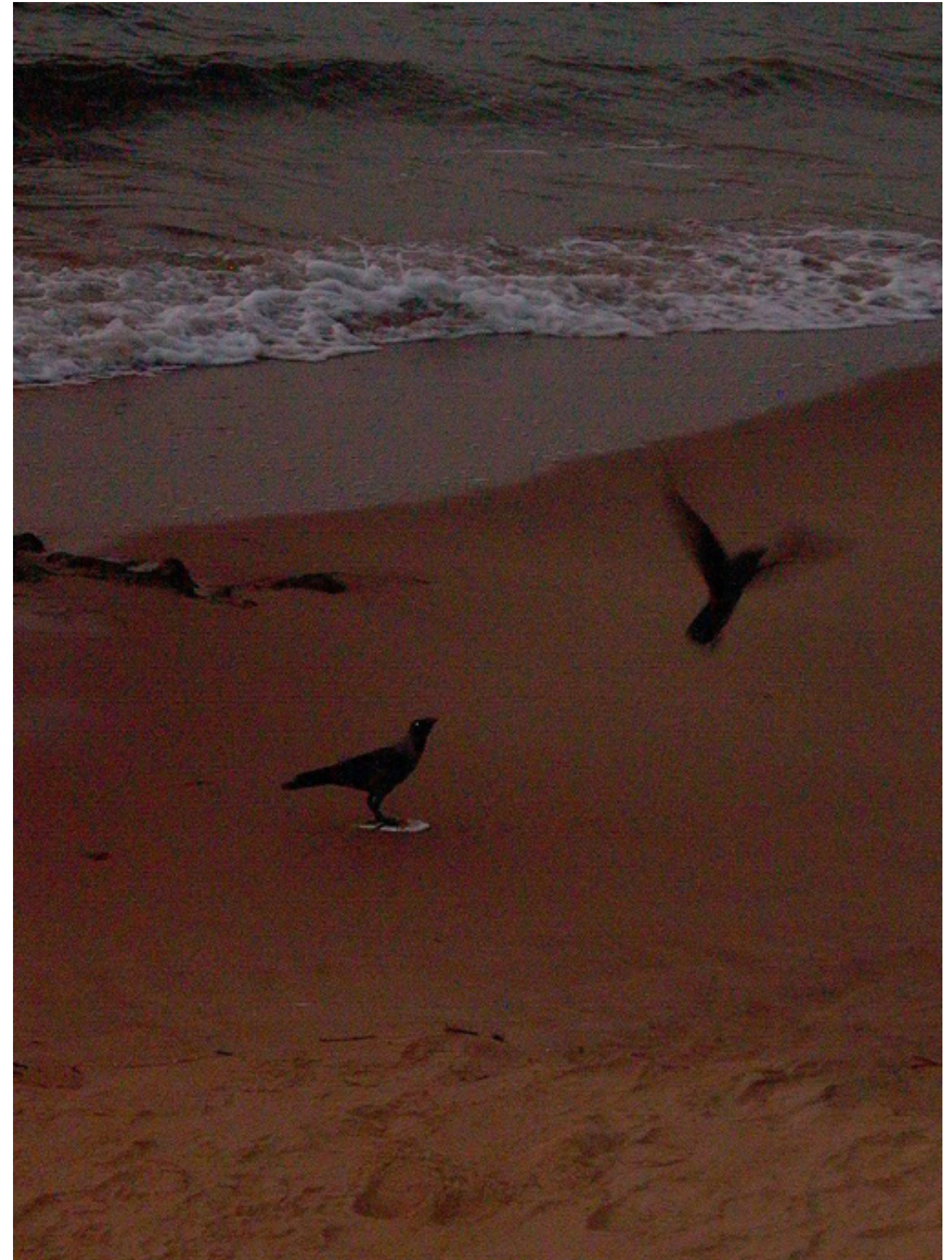


## ETCETERA

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK ULYSEAS

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Ennui often nudges one to photograph fleeting images that later become a source of inspiration. These are photographs (not photoshopped) taken when one was subdued by the elements.



Dusk departing, Anjuna, Goa, India.





Setting sun, Mekong, Laos.



Full moon over Wat Xiang Thong Temple, Luang Prabang, Laos.





Watch Tower.



Homage to the Moon - Street lit banana trees on a full moon night on the banks of the Nam Khan, Laos.



# Live encounters

## Photography

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