



A walk around the Annapurnas

Rita Dhital
Kathmandu

A formal launch of www.aroundannapurna.de, a book of photographs by Andreas Stimm accompanied by Yuyutsu R.D. Sharma's poems was organised by GTZ office, Sanepa on December 9.

The 300-km trek around the Annapurna range of central Nepal has always been a classic mountain trekking region that attracts people from around the world for a panoramic view of the world's 10th highest mountains and a culture that is unique and pleasing.

This is what brought Stimm, a German photographer to Nepal several times since 1998. The hospitality and friendliness of the people of the Annapurna region, and their spirit despite poverty and hard life, impressed him a lot. A geologist by education, but a photographer and media designer by profession, Stimm has used the artistic medium of black and white photography to express his experiences and the unusual title of the book relates to his profession.

Telling about how this book developed, Stimm said, "Three years ago I had an idea about doing something special about the spirit of Annapurna I had experienced. I had taken several photographs of the landscape and people. When I decided to publish a picture book

on Annapurnas, I felt something was missing."

Fortunately he met Sharma and his poems describing some of the photographs he had taken. So they decided to co-author the book with an aim of adding critical thoughts about people's lives along with the photographs and as a contribution towards Nepal and German friendship.

The combination of breathtaking scenery and the beautiful poems by Sharma enrich the book with the Nepali spirit. Sharma said, "The photographs and the poems complement our shared moments of bliss, passion, and compassion." His poems include both philosophical reflections on life, harsh and critical thoughts about different ways of living. Sharma read out one of his poems — *Mules* — that describes the agony of people living in the area.

Dr Susanne von der Heide, executive director of the HimalAsia Foundation, gave insights into the work. "The book is an unusual piece of art, a combination of artistic panoramic photography, poetic impressions and travel information that can be a beautiful Christmas present."

Few photographs of that area were also on display and sale at the programme. The book is available both in English and German language in major bookstores in Kathmandu.

EVENT

Stimm's photographic and poetic journey

A German photographer and Geologist Andreas Stimm has published a book about photographic and poetic journey around the Annapurnas.

The photographs are taken by Stimm himself and poetry explaining the photographs is written by Yuyutsu R.D. Sharma. The photographs can also be viewed in

www.aroundannapurna.de.

An informal press meet was organized on the occasion of the soft launching of the book on October 20, 2005 at Everest book shop Babermahal revisited.



Babermahal.

It took Andreas 2 years to complete his collection and been collecting the photographs from 1998.

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After a lull in the continuous flow of exhibitions, there's a good news for all the patrons of arts and photographs this time. Galleries are back in scene now and within a week numerous artists are trying to get their works displayed in the galleries. The waves have already captured some renowned galleries in town. Here is a list of what's going on in the popular ones.

"Panorama Photographs"
Andreas Stimm

"Panorama



Photographs" by Andreas Stimm, an exhibition all about his journey to the Annapurna Circuit, is as exhilarating as the real journey itself. The 15 photo-

graphs showcased at the Indigo Gallery speak it all.

No doubt he has captured the images of the Annapurna Circuit in the 21st century, but the monochromic images which portray the region's country life seems to be turning the hands of time, taking you back into its pastoral past.

In the exhibition inaugurated by Dr Johanna Wernicke Rothmayer, Stimm has been able to catch the precious stillness, warmth of the people and vastness of nature. Andreas

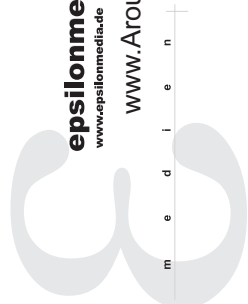
has documented his multiple visits to the Circuit since 1998 and has brought to light his experience as a trekker on the

230kms route depicting the beauty beyond the urban life.

"The hospitality of the people of Manang and their friendliness, despite their poverty, are the true treasures of Nepal. The pictures depict how people can still be satisfied even without luxury," he says. The pictures are on sale for Rs 22,500 each. And the exhibition, which is must see for the lovers of photography, will continue till November 27

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Shadows beneath Annapurna's cheekbones

Yuyutsu RD Sharma
Kathmandu

Annapurnas make you humble," said German photographer and geologist Andreas Stimm at his show at the Indigo Gallery. "The smiles of the people here in the face of hardships and abysmal poverty are rare, unlike in Germany where in spite of possessing all riches, people seldom smile..."

It is Annapurnas that brought us together. We had visited the area separately. He had been round Annapurnas four times since 1998. I have made the sanctuary my second home for more than a decade. We went into these stadiums of delight, saw the sparkle of the glaciers and smiles of the people struggling like mules around Annapurnas to make a living and returned with photo images and poems respectively.

I might have passed by him on the steep mule path. He might have chance a customary 'Namaste on the trail or we might have shared a mint tea or a glass of raksi or danced to the tunes of exhausted porters in a lodge by the fireside in a dark night. *Rashmi pherevere...*
But we were destined to go on our ways as strangers, only to meet in Frankfurt and be-

come friends. The first time I met Andreas, he was with his dazzling wife Silke and asked me to sign my recent book on Annapurnas for him. He came from the area in Germany that I had always longed to visit. We kept in touch on the net, barely knowing he would bring out my life's most gorgeous coffee table book with the Himalayan magnitude soon.

Meeting Andreas turned out to be a series of surprises. First he made me his co-author by using poetry from The Lake Fewa and a Horse. When I received the first copy in London, I was overwhelmed. It promoted my readings in the UK.

While working with Andreas, I soon discovered that he is a highly perceptive and sensitive human being. He has that old European touch of class and compassion in him. He respects the roots, traditions and poetry that throb in the veins of each and every Nepali. His book of panoramic photography that he has published is not just a 'smoony' book about Himalayan peaks. It is a humble tribute to the idea of poetry itself in the current dazle of print media blitz.

The book, *un:AroundAnnapurna-de-a-photographic and poetic journey around the Annapurnas, Nepal*, is also a



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solemn acknowledgement of the beauty and grandeur of people struggling in the idyllic landscape.

The other surprise that Andreas offered came in the format and technique of his art of photography. To see the entire book in black and white, instead of colours was unique. His photographs do not glamorise the beauty of the landscape and poverty of the people in it. The people in his photographs do not evoke pity or beg for sympathy. Nor

do they seem to be posing as home grown models to get humanitarian or Western aid or act as penniless promoters of country's tourism industry. They seem to be entrapped in their own worlds lost in the precious moments of their regular lives. Andreas' photos make us think what they must be thinking about the sordid dramas of their lives.

"Black and white photography," says Andreas, "avoids the mathematical equations that digital photography with its rigid perfection seems to offer. The b/w photos leave the door open for you to view pictures you are facing. Colour photos have so much colour in them that you take the perfection of the subject for granted. You do not exert to probe the picture carefully and closely."

In Andreas' opinion, b/w would set the ultimate standards of fine photography in times to come. "It's the future of photography," he discerns. Quoting a famous fashion and portrait photographer who once said that he uses only black and white because that's the only way to bring out the different shades in the shadow of a woman's cheek bone, German scholar Dr Johanna Wernicke-Rothmayer while inaugurating the show of panoramic photographs at Indigo Gallery added, "Andreas Stimm's black and white photos invite you to come inside and get a closer look at the shadows beneath Annapurna's cheekbones."



अन्नपूर्णबारे कृति



अन्नपूर्ण समाचारदाता

फोटोग्राफर एन्ड्रस स्मिथ र कवि युयुत्सु आरडी शर्माको संयुक्त कृति 'एराउन्ड अन्नपूर्ण' को शुक्रबार राजधानीमा सार्वजनिक गरिएको छ। नेपालको पश्चिमी भागमा अवस्थित अन्नपूर्ण क्षेत्रको भौगोलिक भ्रमणका क्रममा एन्ड्रसले खिच्युभएको तस्वीर र युयुत्सुले लेख्नुभएको कविता संग्रहित प्रस्तुत कृतिभित्र १४ शीर्षकका कविता तथा तस्वीरहरू प्रस्तुत गरिएको छ।

हिमाल एसिया फाउन्डेसनका कार्यकारी निर्देशक डा. सुसानी भान डेर हेइडले कृतिबारे मन्तव्य व्यक्त गर्नुभएको थियो। सो कार्यक्रममा कवि आरडीले कवितावाचन गर्नुभएको थियो। एक सय ३६ पृष्ठको जर्मन र अंग्रेजी भाषाको उक्त कृतिमा लेखक युयुत्सु आरडी विगत दुई दशकदेखि नेपाली साहित्यिक क्षेत्रमा भिन्दै आउनुभएको छ। यसअघि पनि उहाँले नेपाली तथा अंग्रेजी भाषामा कविता लेखन तथा प्रकाशन गरिसक्नुभएको छ।

यसै गरी जर्मन फोटोग्राफर एन्ड्रस स्मिथले सन् १९९८ देखि विभिन्न समयमा नेपालको भ्रमण गरी विभिन्न प्रकारका तस्वीरहरू खिच्दै आउनुभएको छ। उहाँहरू दुवैको प्रयासबाट 'एराउन्ड अन्नपूर्ण' तयार पार्नुभएको हो।



दोभान अन्नपूर्ण

जर्मनीको फ्र्याङ्कफर्ट पुगेका बेला कवि युयुत्सु आरडी शर्मासँग अल्लारेजस्ता लाग्ने एक युवक अचम्मसँग नजिकिन खोजे। स्रष्टासँग नजिकिन खोज्ने धेरै हुन्छन् तर तिनले त आफ्नो फोटो-पुस्तकमा युयुत्सुका कवितासमेत समावेश गर्ने रहर देखाए। कामभन्दा गफ बढी गर्ने एसियाली आनीबानी भोग्दै आएका युयुत्सु ती पश्चिमाको बोलाइ र गराइप्रति नतमस्तक नराहिरहन सकेनन्।

संयोग कस्तो परेछ भने दशकदेखि वार्षिक अन्नपूर्णक्षेत्र जाने आउने गरिरहेका युयुत्सुले त्यहाँको जनजीवन र सौन्दर्यबारे *इ लेक फेवा एन्ड अ हर्स* कवितासङ्ग्रह निकालेका। उता,

जर्मनीका एन्ड्रिज स्टिमले सोही ठाउँ घुमेर सयौं तस्वीर क्यामरामा कैद गरेका। आफ्ना तस्वीरको भाव पुस्तकमा दुरुस्त पोखिएको पाएपछि एन्ड्रिजले 'फोटो-कविता' पुस्तकको परिक्ल्पना गरेका हुन् र त्यो अहिले साकार पनि भएको छ। यसअघि एन्ड्रिजका श्याम स्वत अन्नपूर्ण तस्वीरले इन्डिगो ग्यालरी १० दिनसम्म सजाइएको थियो।

धान्द्रुक, घोरपानी, वीरेठाटी, छुम्ड, जोमसोम, बाहनडाँडा, मनाङजस्ता मनोरम ठाउँहरूमा आधारित पुस्तक, स्रष्टाका हिसाबले दुई महाद्वीपबीच सेतु बन्ने अपेक्षा जर्मन फोटोग्राफर स्टिमले गरेका छन्। "गरिवी र कठिन जीवनका बावजूद पनि मनाङीहरूको आत्मीयता र मित्रताका सोच्न पश्चिमाहरूका लागि ठूलो पाठ हो," भू-गर्भशास्त्रीसमेत रहेका

Rising Nepal 11.12.2005

The poem, photographs that take to Annapurna trails

By A Staff Reporter—

KATHMANDU, Dec. 9: A book entitled "Photographic and Poetic Journey Around the Annapurnas", that takes the readers along the trekking trails of the Annapurna trekking route was released at a function Friday.

Poet Yuyutsu R. D. Sharma's poetry, both in English and German language are juxtaposed with the attractive black and white photos taken by Andreas Stimm, a German photographer and geologist, in the book with 136 pages.

The photos that depict the landscape, lifestyle and the culture of the people living in and around the Annapurna trekking routes are filled with life despite being in two colours only.

The book also includes a fold out profile map of the trekking route that can be carried while trekking. The handy trekking profile has handy information such as walking times and distances.

The book establishes a new intersection between fine art

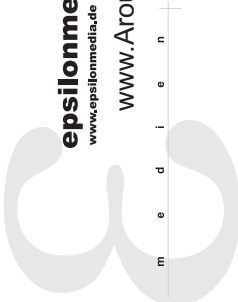
panoramic photography, poetic impressions and solid travel information.

Sharma's poetry supports the pictures in the book and is only a section of the whole poetry that he wrote following his trek in the region. "I took notes of the surroundings during my trek and sat down to give them the shape of poetry whenever I found time," Sharma said.

Sharma, who has been penning poems in English about Nepali lifestyle and culture for the last twenty years said that the book would contribute to give a fillip to Nepal's tourism industry.

Stimm, who has been taking black and white photos, mostly of landscape and natural surroundings for the last 20 years has visited Nepal since 1998 several times.

"The hospitality of the people in Manag, their friendliness, and their spirit despite their poverty and hard life are the true treasures of Nepal," Stimm has stated while presenting his impressions about Nepal.



Stimm's peaks & Sharma's poems *In and out of the Annapurna Sanctuary*

*On the great Tibetan salt route they meet me again
old forsaken friends...
On their faces
fatigue of a drunken sleep
their lives worn out,
their legs twisted, shaking
from carrying
illustrious flags of bleeding ascents*

The above fragment composed by Yuyutsu RD Sharma exactly complements "Mules", a chapter on the

phy techniques, poetic emotions and traveling spirit.

About 110 panoramic pictures in the book taken by photographer Andreas Stimm attempt to take its readers on a fascinating journey to the 210km walk around the Annapurna

chromatic book browsing experience is so intriguing, adventuresome and real that only a while later do you realize that you are still at your coffee table sipping your mocha.

Each chapter in the book greets you with

reason for capturing the whole Annapurna region behind the lens of his camera and then bringing it out as a book, Andreas says, "Well, I simply wanted to portray Nepal beyond the image that it has acquired internationally. It's safe."

Documenting Annapurna as a must-trek destination, the book includes a 1.4m x 0.5m foldout profile map that can be carried out while journeying there.

BOOK GLEAMING

Circuit.

As you turn the pages of the book, you can follow

Sharma's poems, while the pictures in it recite additional mutual words to



illustrative book www.AroundAnnapurna.de <<http://www.AroundAnnapurna.de>>.

Released last Friday, the book is a perfect appreciation of photogra-

the mule trails, the subtropical forests, the icy altitudes of the world's highest pass, the Thorung-La, and the ancient salt trade route from Tibet to India. The whole mono-

give you a better notion of the journey around the trail. The poems reflect both admiration for nature and critical views of the developing tourism in the region.

Explaining the sole

If not, Andrea's and Yuyutsu's www.AroundAnnapurna.de can be purchased for Rs 3,400 at leading bookstores in Kathmandu.

(PR)

Boss Magazin November 2005

BIZ SOCIETY



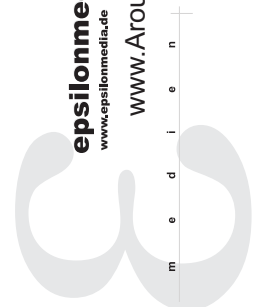
Pre-release of book by Andreas Stimm

The Everest Book Shop organised a programme on 20 October to pre-release Andreas Stimm's book www.AroundAnnapurna.de, a photographic and poetic journey around the Annapurnas. The book that has text in English

and German, has photographs taken by Stimm, and Yuyutsu R D Sharma's poems. Speaking on the occasion Stimm said, "It took me two years to come up with this book. Nepal is not projected in a positive way in other countries due to its various problems. I have tried to make an effort to uplift the tourism industry through this book."

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स्टिमको फोटो आरडीको कविता



इन्डिगो ग्यालरीमा एन्ड्रियस स्टिम अन्नपूर्ण तस्वीर हेर्न आएका बसंजनाई कविता सुनाउँदै कवि युयुत्सु आरडी शर्मा ।

3 नीहरूको भेट एक वर्ष अघिमै जर्मनीको फ्रयाडफर्टमा भएको हो। छोटो अवधिमा कवि युयुत्सु आरडी शर्मा र जर्मनी फोटोग्राफर एन्ड्रियस स्टिमबीच सम्बन्ध बेस्सरी भागियो। कारण थियो- सिजनाका एउटै विषय। यी दुई व्यक्तित्व यतिबेला एक मनका साथ 'अन्नपूर्ण' क्षेत्रको व्याख्या गरिरहेका छन् राजधानीको इन्डिगो ग्यालरीमा। फरक घाँटो- युयुत्सु कवितामा भाव पोख्छन् स्टिमचाहिँ सुन्दर तस्वीरमा।

वर्षौंदेखिको फोटोग्राफी सोचलाई परा गर्ने स्टिम ७ वर्षअघि काठमाडौं हुँदै अन्नपूर्ण क्षेत्र जानिएका थिए। त्यहाँका जनजीवन, प्रकृति र स्थानीयताबाट लोभिएका उनले सयौं तस्वीर खिचे। एक दिन जब स्टिमले फ्रयाडफर्टस्थित एक पुस्तक पसलबाट आरडीका कविता कृति 'द लेक् फेवा एन्ड अ इम्' फिने, त्यसभित्र उनले आफ्नो तस्वीरले बोल्न खोजेको छँदै करा पाए।

'आरडीका कविताले यसरी छोयो कि' स्टिमले कान्तिपुरमा भने- 'मैले तिने कवितालाई आफ्नो कृतिमा

समेत उतारें।' यहाँसम्म कि कवितामा पोखिएको अन्नपूर्ण भावबाट प्रभावित स्टिमले आफ्नो तस्वीरसँगै आरडीका कविता मिलाएर 'पिक्चर एन्ड पोइम्स अराउन्ड अन्नपूर्ण' नामक कृति नै प्रकाशित गरे।

शुक्रबार कला र साहित्यप्रेमीहरूले दुईवटा भिन्न स्वादलाई एकैपटक ग्रहण गरे। इन्डिगो ग्यालरीले

आयोजना गरेको अन्नपूर्णमाथि आरडीको एकल कविता वाचन समारोहमा स्टिम तस्वीरको भाव केलाउँदै थिए भने आरडी त्यही भावलाई कवितामा उतार्दै। खच्चडहरूको झाराभान, सुन्दर हिमाल, आंगनछेउ घमेर लाग्ने पखिरेका युवती, जडयाहा लाग्नेको सास्ती खोपिरेका आइमाई आरडीका कविता विषय थिए।

'यस्ता प्रयास भइरहनुपर्छ' देगी र विदेशी दर्शकमाथि कविता सुनाएपछि आरडीले भने- 'जसले नेपाली साहित्यको अन्तर्राष्ट्रियकरणमा भूमिका खेल्न सक्छ।' त्यसो न आरडी स्वयं ९ जना प्रसिद्ध नेपाली कविका चर्चित कविता जर्मनी भाषामा प्रकाशित गर्ने अभियानमा जुटिरहेका छन्।

'कविताले यसरी छोयो कि मैले त्यसलाई कृतिमा उतारें'

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...and more.

