

TIBETAN MUSTANG: Preserving the Past, Protecting the Future

Kenneth Parker

Photographer Kenneth Parker is a large format landscape colorist working principally in remote pristine wilderness areas throughout the world where he has trekked extensively. His early experience as Eliot Porter's field assistant helped to nurture a loving eye devoted to isolating and capturing the mysteries in nature that he struggled for decades to unravel as a research scientist in oceanography and global climate change.

Most of Parker's photographs are captured over the course of 5-10 day backpacking excursions hauling 75-85 pounds of large-format equipment as he becomes immersed in a profound sense of place. Often several days are spent contemplating the changing light and intimacy of a composition before completing a single exposure. Usually only a few distinctive images will result from one of these journeys.

Over the past four decades, Parker has produced a body of work in solely traditional film formats that has been widely exhibited and published. While much of that time was occupied with his natural science career, he consistently maintained and exercised the creative passions that have now fully committed his life focus to photography.

Kenneth Parker is represented in leading galleries and collections nationwide including the renowned Weston Gallery in Carmel and Getty Images, The Art of Wild in Europe, and has been exhibited at the Smithsonian Institution, Oakland Museum, California Academy of Sciences, and the Los Angeles County and San Diego Museums of Natural History.

"Ken is my favorite color photographer. The way in which he works with light is inspiring. It feels as if he has an arrangement with God." —Ruth Bernhard

www.kennethparker.com/

Luigi Fieni

Luigi Fieni has photographed landscapes, culture, and the cultural heritage of the Himalayas for nearly two decades, while working as a conservator of Tibetan art, for a project funded by The American Himalayan Foundation.

Born in Italy, Luigi Fieni studied aeronautical engineering at the University of Rome, and then conservation of mural paintings at the "Arts Labor Conservation Institute" in Rome. He started his career as an art conservator in 1999, assisting in a prestigious project in the Himalayan region. As lead conservator he has worked mainly in Nepal, Bhutan, and China, restoring ancient Buddhist art and training local people to preserve their own cultural heritage. His work as a conservator of Tibetan art has been featured in many major newspapers and magazines worldwide, including The New York Times, The Guardian, The Herald Tribune, The Washington Post, The National Geographic Magazine, and Geo Magazine.

His photography has been exhibited in America, Europe and Asia. His work is part of private collections worldwide including: The Manggha Museum (Krakow, Poland), The Taragaon Museum (Kathmandu, Nepal) and The Contemporary Art Collection of The Vatican Museums (Vatican City). Fieni has collaborated with The National Geographic Society, The North Face, The Getty Images, The Mill Valley Film Group, Skydoor Productions, The American Himalayan Foundation, The Kham Aid Foundation, HPRC and Bauer Media.

Currently he is represented by PhotoEye Gallery (Santa Fe, USA), The Art of Wild Gallery (Hohenfels, Germany), HyPHen Gallery (Bucharest, Romania), Streaming Art (The Hague, The Netherlands) and Pandora Art Gallery (Bangkok, Thailand). He works as a photographer for Getty Images and The American Himalayan Foundation, and devotes his time to photography and to the preservation of the Tibetan culture.

www.LuigiFieni.com

His Holiness Sakya Trizin

His Holiness, Sakya Trizin, is the one of the world's preeminent masters of Tibetan Buddhism, and is the supreme head of the Khon Sakya lineage. Born in Tibet in 1945, he ascended to the throne of Sakya at the young age of seven when he was recognized by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. He is considered the spiritual leader of Mustang.

His Holiness the Sakya Trizin has established important centers of learning and monastic practice in India and Nepal where the highly developed Sakya traditions of scholarship, philosophy, and practice continue in exile.

Amy Heller, PhD

Amy Heller is a Tibetologist and art historian. Since 1986 Heller has been associated with the Center National de la recherche scientifique in Paris and subsequently also to the Tibetan and Himalayan Library. She has also been recently a visiting Professor, Lectures on Tibetan Art Architecture, Department of Religious Studies, University of Bern, Switzerland, and a member of the Foreign Collaborator of Tibetan studies team (TBACT) within East Asian Civilisations Research Centre (CRCAO) Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) Paris, France.

She studied Art History at Barnard College of Columbia University (B. A. cum laude 1973) and Tibetan language and civilisation at the National Institute of Oriental Languages in Paris (diploma in 1979). She earned her Ph.D. in 1992 in philology and history of Tibet at the École pratique des hautes études in Paris. She is currently visiting professor since 2007 at the Centre for Tibetan Studies, University of Sichuan, Chengdu, China. She was visiting professor at La Sapienza, university of Rome, Italy in 2006 and 2008.

Heller has traveled numerous times to the Tibet Autonomous Region, Nepal and also traveled along parts of the Silk Route including Dunhuang and the Qinghai regions, where she investigated Tibetan tombs in Dulan, Qinghai in 1997. Since 1995 she worked in a project to restore Tibetan architecture in Tibetan monasteries, notably Grathang and Zhalu, Iwang. She was appointed by the Swiss Federal government to supervise the roof restoration project of the Ramoche Temple, Lhasa, from 2004-2006, under the auspices of the Swiss Ministry of Culture and the Swiss Foreign Affairs.

She published in 1999 *Art et Sagesse du Tibet*; in English, *Tibetan Art Tracing the development of Spiritual Ideals and Art in Tibet 600-2000*. In addition to the French and the English editions, Italian and Spanish translations were published by JACA book and Libsa SA, respectively. In 2009 she published *Hidden Treasures of the Himalayas Tibetan manuscripts, paintings and sculptures of Dolpo*, Serindia publications, Chicago, 2009. In addition, she has published on architecture and Tibetan art, Tibetan history, some 75 articles and museum catalogues, working with the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford (England), Musée Guimet, Paris (France), the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Tibetan collection of The Newark Museum, Newark, NJ. In the mid-2000s, she worked on research of 650 volumes of Tibetan manuscripts from the late 11th to early 12th to the 16th century on the cultural history of Dolpo temple in Nepal, resulting in the 2009 book: *Hidden Treasures of the Himalayas: Tibetan manuscripts, paintings and sculptures of Dolpo*.