



impermanence: expressions of Kyegu, Tibet

A photographic record, illustrated expressions of being there, and responses to the 2010 earthquake

Jayne Shephard

The journey began with Jayne's photographically chronicled spiritual journey to Kyegu (Chinese Yushu) in Eastern Tibet in 2007, as part of a small eclectic group of Australians accompanying the pilgrimage to homeland of His Eminence Aenpo Rinpoche. Many people lined the streets of Kyegu to celebrate the return of their Rinpoche, spiritual leader of the monasteries at Kyegu and India.

Strong and resilient, Tibetans have thrived in the harsh environment on *the roof of the world* by practising a unique Buddhist lifestyle that embraces impermanence. Central to Buddhist philosophy, impermanence is based on the belief that all things are in a constant state of flux through the cycles of birth, life and death. This concept was evident in the 2010 earthquake that devastated Kyegu, wiping out much of the community and changing the 2,000 year-old culture and landscape forever.

The exhibition aims to increase public awareness of the plight of Kyegu, to offer hope to its people and to celebrate the rich culture of Tibet. It comprises limited edition framed photographs of Kyegu before the earthquake, poignant charcoal portraits of the people of Tibet based on Jayne's experiences being there, and a prayer flag installation created from good will messages collected from people in Australia.

Following the success of Jayne's solo exhibition at TAP Gallery, Darlinghurst Sydney; Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery has kindly offered to host the complete exhibition. This is an opportunity to increase awareness of the Tibetan's continued suffering, as thousands are currently enduring their third winter in temporary tent housing (temperatures reaching -40 degrees celsius)

50% of all sales of photographs and drawings is being donated to the Kyegu Relief Fund (KRF), a not-for-profit fund set up in response to the 2010 earthquake.

Photos taken in the summer of 2007, show the thriving town of Kyegu at 3,800 metres above sea level (left), and the Kyegu Gompa (above) perched above the town at 4,200 metres.