



STUDIO ALTENBURG

Fine Arts Gallery and Gift Shop

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MEDIA RELEASE

Forthcoming exhibition:

Blood on the Tracks: Paintings and Drawings by Kate Stevens and Surya Bajracharya

Exhibition dates: 26 April – 19 May, 2008

Studio Altenberg, 104 Wallace Street Braidwood NSW 2622 (ph/fax 02 4842 2384)

The visual memories of travel abroad is the theme of the next exhibition at Studio Altenberg featuring Braidwood artists Kate Stevens and Surya Bajracharya. Called *Blood on the Tracks*, it is a collaborative show of paintings and drawings. The works have been conjured up by shared filmic and photographic material from joint and solo travels of Kathmandu, Japan and Thailand.

The theme is based on the ideas derived from the imagery captured on moving and still photography, as well as recollections the artists have of their experiences. "The works are a retelling of a combination of these ideas; dealing with memory, experience and the ever-transient moment", say the artists. "*Blood on the Tracks* is a narrative exploration of these themes".

Stevens, moved to Braidwood after graduating with honours from the Canberra School of Art. She has since won a number of scholarships and awards for her work. Last year, her talents were recognised by ABC television when she was invited to appear in the series *Painting Australia*, which involved her and a number of artists working with renowned landscape artist JR Walker as a mentor on the banks of the Shoalhaven River at Braidwood.

The ABC web site says of her work, which even then used video footage and photographs as her source material, that she "translates aspects of ... fleeting images into oil paintings. "Kate is interested in the play that occurs between these transient photographed moments and the rich materiality of the oil paint medium."

Bajracharya also attended the Canberra School of Art, graduated with honours, has been the recipient of a number of awards and now lives and works in Braidwood. Unlike Stevens, however, his primary medium is printmaking. Also as he was born to a Nepalese father, Bajracharya grew up in Nepal and then came to live in Australia when he was 4 years old. Undoubtedly, this has influenced his sense of familiarity with the place – especially as he has visited many times since. In 2005, Bajracharya was artist in residence at Megalo Access Arts in Canberra, where he produced monumental lithographic images based on a trip to Nepal. The images were constructed from nine panels each individually printed using a lithographic transfer technique.

Of note is an ACT Regional Arts fund scholarship he won this year to be mentored in lithography by John Loane at Megalo. Bajracharya has an ongoing association as a teacher of printmaking at Megalo, which is an indication of his level of mastery of the medium.

With Steven's painterly capturing of fleeting moments as recorded on film, and Bajracharya's finesse as a printmaker, the two artists have produced a captivating body of work that is both engaging and uplifting. The viewer is immediately transported to the very locations they visited and can almost smell and hear the very environment in which they were immersed.

Blood on the Tracks opens 6pm on Friday 25 April, 2008 at Studio Altenberg in Braidwood.

Visit www.ybrm.com.au/blood/lightbox2/blood.html for images, artists' CVs and promotional flier.

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