

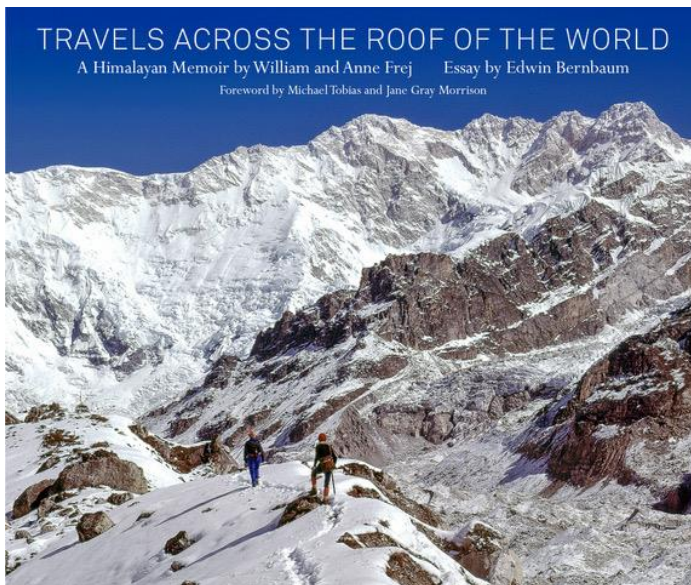
PEYTON WRIGHT

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Travels Across the Roof of the World: A Himalayan Memoir

A Photography Exhibition, Book Launch, and Lecture by William and Anne Frej

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 7 2022



Peyton Wright Gallery is pleased to announce a book launch and a photography exhibition opening on Friday, October 7, from 4 -7 p.m. to celebrate the launch of William and Anne Frej's new book, *Travels Across the Roof of the World: A Himalayan Memoir*.

The Frejs will also give a talk on their work at the gallery on Saturday, October 8 from 1-3 p.m.

The exhibition concludes on November 8, 2022.

Travels Across the Roof of the World: A Himalayan Memoir (2022) is just published by George F. Thompson Publishing. The 280-page book with 228 color photographs provides a sweeping yet intimate view of the breathtaking peaks, splendid valleys, and extraordinary people of the Himalaya, from the Pamir Mountains in Kyrgyzstan through Afghanistan's fabled Hindu Kush, the Karakoram in Pakistan, and the Great Himalaya Range that stretches across northern India, Nepal, Tibet, and Bhutan.

Unique in scope among photography books on the Himalaya, *Travels Across the Roof of the World* chronicles the authors more than twenty pilgrimages throughout this region spanning forty years and 3,000 miles through some of the world's most remote and difficult-to-reach country. Inspired by the devotion to the practice of Tibetan Buddhism they encountered in the villagers they met on their first trek to Nepal in 1981, they set out on a quest to document Asia's highest peaks as well as the lives of the resilient people living in these remote mountain communities.

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When they began, trekkers from the West through these regions were few. Even now, trips are demanding—but not nearly as harsh as the daily lives of the residents, who continue to exist in a kind of stunning isolation that has allowed them to maintain the rich cultural traditions and spiritual practices that have sustained them over many centuries.

The book includes a Foreword by Michael Tobias and Jane Gray Morrison, noted authors and film-makers. An essay by Edwin Bernbaum on “Sacred Mountains: Symbolism and Significance” adds to the depth of the pictures, with his focus on the symbolism, religious importance, and associated legends of these sacred places. The authors also share extensive vignettes about the places they visited and how they have changed over time.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

William Frej is an award-winning photographer who has been photographing Indigenous people for more than forty years while living in Indonesia, Poland, Kazakhstan, and Afghanistan as a career diplomat with the United States Agency for International Development and while traveling in other remote, mountainous regions of Asia.

His book of black-and-white photographs, *Maya Ruins Revisited: In the Footsteps of Teobert Maler* (Peyton Wright Gallery, 2020), has won sixteen awards. His second book, *Seasons of Ceremonies: Rites and Rituals in Guatemala and Mexico* (Museum of New Mexico Press, 2021), has won eight awards including four “photography book of the year” awards including the Gold Medal Best Photography book for 2021 from Foreword Indies/Foreword Reviews.

The book also received two wins from the Moscow International Foto Awards competition in its book division: a Gold medal for the “people” subject matter category, and Second Place, Book Photographer of the Year. Last year’s accolades for the book include Bronze Medal, Photography Books, Tokyo International Foto Awards; Silver Medal, Photography Books/People, Budapest International Photography Awards; and



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Finalist, National Indie Excellence® Awards.

Anne Frej is an urban planner who focused on feasibility studies and design concepts for commercial real estate projects in the U.S., Indonesia, Central Europe, and Central Asia. At the Urban Land Institute (ULI) in Washington, D.C., she was the project director and primary contributor to four books published by the Institute. At the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, she was a cultural resources planner responsible for community outreach program and cultural heritage activities. She was a contributor to *Maya Ruins Revisited* and *Seasons of Ceremonies*.

The Frejs have lived in Santa Fe since 2010. William Frej is represented by Peyton Wright Gallery and has had six one-person photography exhibitions at the gallery.



What: *“Travels Across the Roof of the World: A Himalayan Memoir”*

Photography Exhibition, Book Launch, and Lecture by William and Anne Frej

Where: Peyton Wright Gallery, 237 East Palace Avenue, Santa Fe NM

When: Exhibition opening reception: Friday, October 7, 4 to 7 p.m.

Lecture: Saturday, October 8, 1- 3 p.m.

Exhibition: Friday, October 7 – Tuesday November 8, Mon- Fri 9 -5, Sat 12 -5

Press Inquiries: Mustafa Stefan Dill at 505-989-9888, mustafa@peytonwright.com

High resolution images can be furnished on request, and the artists are available for interviews.

ART IMAGES, from top (*high-resolution images available upon request*):

(*front jacket*) *Kangchenjunga, Nepal*, 1985, 20 x 30 inches

Stakna Monastery, above the Indus River, Ladakh, India, 2018, 30 x 45 inches

Tibetan nomads near Gertse, West Tibet, 1986, 20 x 30 inches

The Hindu Kush, north of Kabul, Afghanistan, 2009, 20 x 30 inches

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