

PEYTON WRIGHT



The Hindu Kush, north of Kabul

Afghanistan, 2009

Archival pigment inks on archival French platine paper

Edition 1/6

20" x 30"

Signed and dated lower right, titled lower left

***Travels Across the Roof of the World: A Himalayan
Memoir***

An exhibition by William and Anne Frej

October 7 - November 8 2022

Opening reception and book launch:
Friday, October 7, 4-7 pm

Artist's Talk:
Saturday, October 8, 1 pm

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.



Lamayuru Monastery, Ladakh, India, 2018. Archival pigment inks on archival French platine paper, Edition 1/6. 13.75" x 20.625" Signed and dated lower right, titled lower left.

The Frejs first first visited Nepal in 1981 on a month-long trek around Manaslu, the eighth highest peak in the world.

Inspired by the practice of Tibetan Buddhism they encountered in remote mountain villages, this trek led to a lifelong quest, documenting both the world's highest peaks as well as the resilient people living throughout the roof of the world.

They returned to Nepal in 1982, and in 1985, they took a two-year sabbatical walking to the base camps of the world's highest peaks. Starting in the mountains of northern Pakistan, bordering Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor, the Frej's walked over 3,000 miles on their personal pilgrimage through Pakistan, India, Nepal and Tibet. Throughout this sojourn, Asia's highest peaks and their outposts of remote civilizations and religions provided a wealth of subject matter for photography, documenting peaks, people and ceremonies seen by only a few.

Their quest continued over next three decades until the present, returning to the Himalayas many times, living in Central Asia and Afghanistan, and documenting not only mountains, but ancient religious ceremonies that still define a way of life

for Asia's Hindu, Bon and Buddhist peoples. Frej's June of 2018 visit to the Indian Himalaya retraced the steps of India's devout holy men, the Sadhus, to Gaumukh glacier, the source of the holy Ganges, and continued through Ladakh, visiting 24 remote monasteries and participating in ceremonies at Lamayuru and Hemis Monasteries.



[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 thirteen awards including four “photography book of the year” awards and the Gold Medal Best Photography book for 2021 from Foreword Indies/Foreword Reviews.

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*.



[View the exhibition catalog](#)

Peyton Wright Gallery is pleased to present
this [exhibition](#) of work by [William Frej](#)
Please contact us at info@peytonwright.com for more information.