

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



DATE: March 5 – April 30, 2009 – Opening Reception, First Thursday March 5, 5-8 pm

LOCATION: ArtXchange Gallery, 512 First Ave S, Seattle, WA 98104

COST: FREE and open to the public

HOURS: Tuesday – Saturday, 11 AM – 5:30 PM, First Thursday until 8 PM

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“Namaste, Simikot, Humla region, Nepal”
Cora Edmonds, 2000

Namaste Reunited: photographs by Cora Edmonds **A benefit exhibition for Namaste Children’s Fund**

Seattle, Washington – February 15, 2009

Pull date – April 30, 2009

Can a photograph make a difference? Can it transform lives? Cora Edmonds’ photograph *Namaste* has become iconic for many viewers in the Pacific Northwest, but many are not aware of the inspiring story behind the image. In March and April, ArtXchange Gallery presents “Namaste Reunited,” a photography exhibition featuring the work of Cora Edmonds. Eight years ago, Edmonds took an unforgettable photograph of a young boy while traveling in Nepal, which transformed her life and led her back to the country seven years later to search for him. “Namaste Reunited” brings this story alive through Edmonds’ insightful photography from Nepal. Also exhibited is Edmonds’ new work inspired by both ancient and modern cultural landscapes.

In 2000, Seattle photographer Cora Edmonds encountered a young child while traveling in the remote Humla region of western Nepal. The image of a boy with his palms together in the traditional Namaste gesture of greeting and respect had an instant impact on her life. Edmonds and her husband Phil Crean returned to Nepal in 2007 to search for the child. During their journey they found the young boy in a village called Thehe, living in impoverished conditions and wishing for an education. Touched by the wisdom of the culture, yet unable to forget the hardship and poverty they witnessed in Thehe, Edmonds and Crean established Namaste Children’s Fund (NCF) in 2008, a non-profit organization to help disadvantaged, rural children and their communities in Nepal. NCF now sponsors 59 underprivileged children, including the *Namaste Boy*, Gyeni Bohara, to attend school at Hindu Vidyapeeth, a NCF project partner and non-profit educational organization in Nepal. NCF is also working with community leaders in Thehe to improve the local facilities for 450 children who attend the village school.

“Namaste Reunited” presents the *Namaste* story through stunning illustrations from their journey to Thehe, exhibited with photographs from current NCF projects and new fine art photographs by Edmonds. As a photographer and director of ArtXchange Gallery, which exhibits international contemporary art, Edmonds has traveled around the world documenting both ancient and contemporary aspects of the cultures she witnesses. Her respectful, humanistic approach and ability to express the essence of her subjects, be they from Nepal, New Zealand, Hong Kong or the Puget Sound, offers insight into what makes us unique while recognizing the universal connections that we all share.

An opening reception for “Namaste Reunited” will be held during the First Thursday Artwalk on March 5, from 5-8 pm. A second reception will be held Saturday, March 21, from 5-8 pm. Cora Edmonds and Phil Crean will be available both evenings for an exhibition tour.

ArtXchange Gallery: ArtXchange Gallery is a contemporary international art gallery that aims to inspire cultural exploration, the expansion of global community and the exchange of ideas through art, film and photography. We exhibit contemporary art from around the world that reflects the diversity of influences shaping today’s global culture.

Namaste Children’s Fund: A Seattle-based 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to supporting community-based education for women and children in underserved regions of Nepal.

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