

Box 951549, Los Angeles, California 90095-1549
phone 310/825.4288
fax 310/206.7007
www.fowler.ucla.edu

Department of Marketing and Communications

Stacey Ravel Abarbanel
staceyra@arts.ucla.edu
310/825.4288

Stacey Ravel Abarbanel, staceyra@arts.ucla.edu
310/825-4288

For Immediate Use
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'Mani Wall and A Sacred Geography'
Opens at the UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History June 11

In 1996 artist/writer Mary Heebner and her husband, photographer Macduff Everton, traveled to the walled Kingdom of Lo in Nepal's Mustang district to visit Heebner's daughter Sienna Craig, an anthropologist and writer who lived in Nepal intermittently from 1993–2005. They rode horses and trekked, stopping at villages along the way. In 2004 Heebner and Everton returned again to visit Craig, who was then working as a medical anthropologist in Lhasa, Tibet. 'Mani Wall and A Sacred Geography'—on view at the Fowler Museum from June 11 through September 10, 2006—is the result of a creative collaboration by Heebner, Craig, and Everton, inspired by the landscape of these regions and the wall of painted boulders etched with Tibetan prayers (mani) that they encountered in Nepal.

In 2003, Heebner made individually pulp-painted sheets of paper, using variations of the ochre, gray, and white stripes of the mani walls, to frame a collection of twelve sonnets that Craig had written about the Himalaya and Tibet. These sheets of paper became the loose-leaf pages of the elegant, limited-edition book *A Sacred Geography: Sonnets of the Himalaya and Tibet*, which will be displayed at the Fowler in its entirety. Heebner later used the same hues to create the 'Mani Wall' series of paintings also on display. Interspersed along the gallery walls will be a selection of fourteen panoramic photographs of Nepal by Everton. Together, the words and images from this family project create a loving and personal tribute to this sacred region.

About the Artists

Mary Heebner's collages, paintings, works on paper, and artist's books are exhibited throughout the US and abroad. A version of her artist's book, *On the Blue Shore of Silence: Poems of the Sea* by Pablo Neruda, was published in 2004. She also writes travel articles for several magazines including *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Travel + Life* and *National Geographic Traveler*. Macduff Everton's widely published photographs are exhibited and collected around the world. He is a contributing editor at *National Geographic Traveler* and *Islands Magazine* as well as a correspondent for *Virtuoso Life*. Currently he is updating his seminal book, *The Modern Maya*. Sienna Craig is completing a Ph.D. in medical and cultural anthropology from Cornell University. In 1998-99, Craig and husband, Kenneth Bauer, founded DROKPA, a non-profit organization whose mission is to partner with pastoral communities in the Himalaya and Central Asia to implement grassroots development and catalyze social entrepreneurship. In addition to her dissertation research, since 2002 she has been an ethnographer and research coordinator with a National Institute of Health/Global Network for Women's Health project based in Lhasa, Tibet. Her memoir, *Horses Like Lightning: A Passage through Mustang* will be published in 2007.

Visiting the Fowler

'Mani Wall and A Sacred Geography' is presented in conjunction with the debut of a major, traveling exhibition 'The Missing Peace: Artists Consider the Dalai Lama,' and will be on view in the Fowler Museum's Goldenberg Galleria. The Fowler is open Wednesdays through Sundays, noon to 5 p.m.; and on Thursdays, noon until 8 p.m. The museum is closed Mondays and Tuesdays. The Fowler Museum, part of UCLA's School of the Arts and Architecture, is located in the north part of the UCLA campus. Admission is free. Parking is available for \$8 in Lot 4. For more information, the public may call (310) 825-4361 or visit fowler.ucla.edu.

Related Event

Saturday, June 24, 2006 1–4 pm

A World of Art Family Workshop: Books of Place

Write original poems about a place special—real or imagined—and combine them with watercolor paintings to create your own artist book based on the exhibition 'Mani Wall and A Sacred Geography.' \$10 for members; \$15 for non-members. Reservations required: 310/825-7325.

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