

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5-28, 2013

Preview: April 3-4, 11-6pm

## Journey to Lo Manthang

Paintings

Leslie Johnston

Opening Reception: Friday, April 5, 6-8:30

Third Thursday Event: April 18, 6-8:30



“Journey to Lo Manthang” by Leslie Johnston is the first part of a series of installations exploring sacred spaces and places. This series is inspired by a 12-day trek into the historically remote upper Mustang region, to Lo Manthang for the Tiji Festival. This region was once known as Nepal’s Forbidden Kingdom and only opened to tourists in the mid 1990s. The route to and from Lo Manthang was through arid valleys, eroded canyons, past rows of prayer wheels, chortens, mani prayer walls and monasteries. Part of the trek was along the primary trade route between the Tibetan High Plains and India and within sight of two of the world’s highest mountains - Annapurna and Dhaulagiri.



Each painting in this series is composed of multiple layers of acrylic paint with charcoal lines throughout, capturing the rich color variations of ochres, browns, greys, whites and reds which are derived from and echo the landscape. The painted prayer flags overhead, were part of the journey and symbolize the five basic elements - blue - sky/space, white - air/wind, red - fire, green - water, and yellow - earth. Prayer flags are traditionally placed outside homes and in places of spiritual practice for the wind to carry positive energy and blessings across the landscape.

*The artist would like to thank Pasang Sherpa, Mingmar Sherpa and Kaji Sherpa for their support during the trek.*

*Images: Journey to Lo Manthang Series No. 7 and Journey to Lo Manthang Series No. 9 by Leslie Johnston*

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