



**Peabody Museum**  
of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University

PRESS RELEASE

## **Shadows of Shangri La** Nepal in Photographs

*Sponsored by the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology and the Harvard University Asia Center*

**Cambridge, MA, April 2, 2014**

### **Exhibition Opening and Book Signing**

Thursday, May 22, 2014, 5:00 PM  
Center for Government and International Studies,  
South Building (CGIS South), Concourse Level  
1730 Cambridge St.

The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology and the Harvard University Asia Studies Center present *Shadows of Shangri La: Nepal in Photographs*, an exhibition of photographs by 2010–2011 Robert Gardner Visiting Artist Kevin Bubriski. From the sacred temples and congested streets of Kathmandu to the remote mountain villages of the Karnali Zone, photographer Kevin Bubriski has documented Nepal and its people since 1975, when he was stationed there as a Peace Corps water



A Tamang Buddhist shaman in trance at the sacred Gosaikunda Lake, 1978. Tamang villagers and other pilgrims walk for days to the high-altitude lake for the August Full Moon festival Janai Purnima. Shamans lead their village groups, dancing and beating drums, bells jangling in rhythm to the dance. ©Kevin Bubriski.

engineer. In the decades that followed he continued to shoot in Nepal, creating a large documentary record of the country.



Young boy at home. Kerma village, Humla district, 2010,  
©Kevin Bubriski.

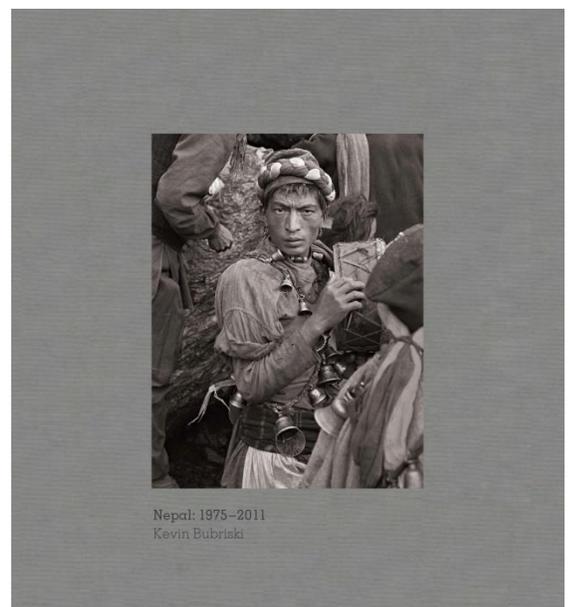
“My photographs of Nepal are an inside observer’s way of entering into and coming to understand a foreign land that was my home for nine years,” says Bubriski. The exhibition and the accompanying volume *Nepal, 1975–2011* (Peabody Museum Press & Radius Books, 2014) explores the visual anthropology and recent cultural history of Nepal, which he describes as an “evolution from an exotic destination for overland

European travelers in the 1970s, political turmoil and strict monarchic rule in the 1970s and 1980s, democracy movement of 1990, the ten-year civil war from 1996 to 2006, to the current precarious peace.”

Bubriski has previously collaborated with the Peabody Museum, curating an exhibition of anthropologist-photographer Michael Rockefeller’s work and writing the accompanying book published by the Peabody Museum Press.

### **About Kevin Bubriski**

Bubriski’s previous photographic work in Nepal has been funded through photography purchases by Robert Gardner, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Photographic Arts, the International Center of Photography, and the Bibliothèque nationale de France. It has been recognized and supported by fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts



Nepal: 1975–2011. (Peabody Museum Press and Radius Books, 2014)

(1988), the Fulbright Foundation (1989–90), and Guggenheim Foundation (1995–96). His Nepal Photography Project (1985–88) was funded by Harvard University's Film Study Center.

He is the author of *Portrait of Nepal* (Chronicle, 1993), *Power Places of Kathmandu: Hindu and Buddhist Holy Sites in the Sacred Valley of Nepal* (Inner Traditions 1995), *Pilgrimage: Looking at Ground Zero* (powerHouse 2002) and *Michael Rockefeller: New Guinea Photographs, 1961* (Peabody Museum Press, 2006). Bubriski teaches photography at Union College, New York.

### **The Robert Gardner Visiting Artist Fellowship at the Peabody Museum**

The Robert Gardner Visiting Artist Fellowship permits an established practitioner of the arts to create and disseminate original work in still photography, film, and related media through such means as exhibitions, books, journals, lectures, symposia, and the worldwide web. The Fellowship provides a stipend of \$50,000. The Fellowship was given by Robert Gardner, award-winning documentary filmmaker and author, whose works have entered the permanent canon of non-fiction filmmaking. Gardner's works include the documentary films "Dead Birds" and "Forest of Bliss" and books *Gardens of War*, *The Impulse to Preserve*, and *Human Documents*. In the 1970s Gardner produced and hosted "Screening Room," a series of more than one hundred 90-minute programs on independent and experimental filmmaking. The series, considered an invaluable historical record of modern cinema, has been transferred to digital format, for archival preservation by the Museum of Film and Broadcasting in New York City. Robert Gardner received Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Harvard University, and was director of Harvard's Film Study and Visual Arts Centers from 1957 to 1997. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

### **About the Peabody Museum**

The Peabody Museum is among the oldest archaeological and ethnographic museums in the world with one of the finest collections of human cultural history found anywhere. It is home to superb materials from Africa, ancient Europe, North America, Mesoamerica, Oceania, and South America in particular. In addition to its archaeological and

ethnographic holdings, the Museum's photographic archives, one of the largest of its kind, hold more than 500,000 historical photographs, dating from the mid-nineteenth century to the present and chronicling anthropology, archaeology, and world culture.

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