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## The Traveller's Eye

*Photographs by William Dalrymple*

1 – 30 July 2021

### PRESS RELEASE

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Grosvenor Gallery is delighted to announce its upcoming exhibition, **'The Traveller's Eye: Photographs by William Dalrymple'**. The exhibition will open with a private view on **Thursday, 1 July 2021 from 6-8pm**. There will also be a talk and walkthrough of the exhibition by William Dalrymple on **Saturday, 3 July at 3 pm**.

**The Traveller's Eye** is a visual diary of black and white photographs, shot over the last couple of years by William Dalrymple during his travels and research for his two books 'The Anarchy' and his upcoming book 'The Golden Road'. Dalrymple has followed the footsteps of the central characters in his books which has led him to travel extensively throughout the Indian subcontinent and modern-day Pakistan, Afghanistan and down to Sri Lanka.

From the deserted 6th century ruins at Badami to the 14th Century City of Victory, Vijayanagara Dynasty at Hampi and Thatta, the medieval city of Sindh (now in Pakistan), through to the ancient Buddhist capital of Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka, Dalrymple goes to places far off the beaten track and captures angles that only he can. These photographs will be regarded as historical documents in years to come.

While researching for his book 'The Anarchy' William followed the footsteps of the Mughal Emperor, Shah Alam, and followed his fortunes, and those of his allies and adversaries, between Delhi, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Mysore and Calcutta. These photographs depict what is left of the world that Shah Alam knew, the places he grew up, the buildings where he formed his ambitions, and the places where his hopes came crashing to the ground.

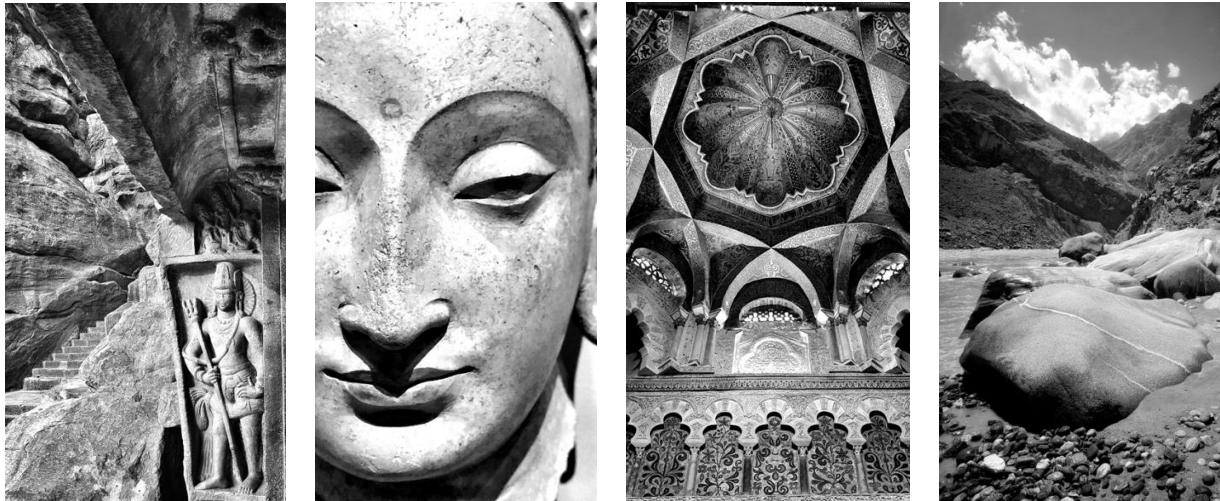
*"I've been visiting all the places where this history took place – the battlefields and ruins, the mosques, Sufi shrines and temples, the paradise gardens and pleasure grounds, the barrack blocks and townhouses, the crumbling Mughal havelis and the palaces and forts."*

- William Dalrymple (Interview with National Geographic, 2019)

For his next book 'The Golden Road', William has travelled through the Silk Route to Afghanistan's Logar Province to Mes Aynak, which was once the site of one of the most important Buddhist monasteries and trading settlements in Asia in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, searching for signs of India's cultural diffusion in the early centuries of the Common Era. Recent excavations have newly-uncovered Gandharan Buddhist monasteries where lines of stucco Buddhas face onto a square stupa lined with Corinthian columns. The many such Hindu and Buddhist monuments, ruins and art works lie scattered around Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Gobi Desert. Photographs such as 'Buddha', 'Fasting Buddha' 'Indus' and 'Sacred Enclosure' all encompass this region and the spread of Indic religions and ideas across Asia.

Photographs such as 'Bellagio', 'Seville', 'Grenada', and 'Cordoba' explore his recent travels tracing how Indian mathematics and astronomy travelled through the Arab world to the Mediterranean, where the Indian numerals we all use today were brought to Italy by Leonardo Fibonacci .

The Exhibition continues at the gallery till Friday 30 July 2021



Images (L to R): *Badami Cave Dvarapala*, 2021 | *Buddha*, 2021 | *Cordoba*, 2021, | *Indus*. 2021

## **About the Artist:**

William Dalrymple is one of Britain's great historians and the bestselling author of the Wolfson Prize-winning *White Mughals*, *The Last Mughal*, which won the Duff Cooper Prize, and the Hemingway and Kapucinski Prize-winning *Return of a King*. His most recent book, *The Anarchy*, was long listed for the Baillie Gifford Prize 2019, and short listed for the Duke of Wellington medal for Military History, the Tata Book of the Year (Non-fiction) and the Historical Writers Association Book Award 2020. It was a Finalist for the Cundill Prize for History and won the 2020 Arthur Ross Bronze Medal from the US Council on Foreign Relations.

A frequent broadcaster, he has written and presented three television series, one of which won the Grierson Award for Best Documentary Series at BAFTA. He has also won the Thomas Cook Travel Book Award, The Sunday Times Young British Writer of the Year Award, the Foreign Correspondent of the Year at the FPA Media Awards, and been awarded five honorary doctorates. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, the Royal Asiatic Society and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and has held visiting fellowships at Princeton, Brown and Oxford. He writes regularly for the *New York Review of Books*, *the New Yorker*, and *the Guardian*. In 2018, he was presented with the prestigious President's Medal by the British Academy for his outstanding literary achievement and for co-founding the Jaipur Literature Festival. He was named one of the world's top 50 thinkers for 2020 by *Prospect*.

He was the guest curator for 'Forgotten Masters: Indian Painting for the East India Company', the first UK exhibition of works by Indian master painters commissioned by East India Company officials in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries at The Wallace Museum in London from 2019- 2020.

Exhibitions of his photographs include 'The Writer's Eye' (2016) at Vadehra Art Gallery, Sunaparanta: Goa Centre for the Arts and Grosvenor Gallery and 'The Historian's Eye' (2019) at Vadehra Art Gallery

William lives with his wife and three children on a farm outside Delhi.

For a more in-depth bio please visit <http://www.williamdalrymple.uk.com/biog>

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## **Regular opening times:**

Monday – Friday: 10am – 5.30pm

Saturday: By appointment (12 – 4pm)

Sunday: Closed

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