

THE ART AND MOTO ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME

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ART IS LOVE: NEPAL

SEAN STARR - SIGN PAINTER IN NEPAL
AN EXPLOREDINARY FILM





LOG LINE

Artist Sean Starr visits the country of Nepal to explore the country's extraordinary array of traditional handcrafted arts.

SYNOPSIS

Artist Sean Starr watched his own trade of sign painting nearly vanish in the age of digitization. Compelled to see what kinds of craftsmanship still exists on the other side of the world, Sean embarks on a journey to Nepal to meet other artisians such as: thangka painters, wood carvers, singing bowl manufacturers, paper makers, basket weavers, and other sign painters.

The film culminates with a motorcycle trek into the himalyas where Sean meets the Magar people and paints a mural on their elementary school. The Magar's primary artform is music and dance, which vividly illustrates the joy and significance of passing down traditional arts forms from one generation to the next.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Title: Art Is Love: Nepal
Runtime: 1 hour and 23 min
Production year: 2020-2023
Country of origin: NEPAL & USA
Language: English
Screen ratio: 16 x 9
Sound format: mono

DIRECTORS | PRODUCERS | CREW



EXPLOREDINARY

Exploredinary is an award-winning creative agency founded in 2015 by Sarah Reyes and Daniel Driensky that specializes in documentary filmmaking, photography, and art. The moniker refers to the duality of the ordinary and the extraordinary - and the exploration of their interdependence.



SARAH REYES

Sarah is an artist, explorer, and co-owner of Exploredinary. Born to Guatemalan immigrants, Sarah sees visual storytelling as a universal language, with the power to connect and celebrate the multitude of ways in which humanity exists.



DANIEL DRIENSKY

Daniel is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and photographer working as one half of the creative duo Exploredinary. He has worked in the field documenting people & society for over 15 years, and is a certified drone pilot-which came in very useful when capturing the terrain of rural Nepal for this film.



JENNIFER BAKER

Jenny found Yoga in 1998 on the East End of Long Island, New York, and after 15 years of practice, she moved to Texas and started Shadow Mountain Yoga where she teaches yoga and Rudra meditation. Jenny's quest is to bring Meditation into the forefront and restore spirituality back into asana and using postures to liberate The Soul.



HADY MAWAJDEH

Hady Mawajdeh is a producer for Vox.com's daily news podcast and radio show Today, Explained. Hady has produced shows profiling weapons dealers and the WWE's Vince McMahon. Before joining Vox.com, Hady worked in public media as an editor, reporter, and producer.

CAST



SEAN STARR

For decades, Visual Artist Sean Starr's original artwork has been displayed in exhibitions at galleries in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Dallas, Houston, Napa Valley, Philadelphia, Chicago, San Antonio and Ireland.

Blending his background as an artist, sign painter, designer and illustrator, Sean Starr has achieved an international reputation while working with other artists such as The Cranberries, Fleetwood Mac's Lindsay Buckingham, The Toadies, Reese Witherspoon, and Gogol Bordello's Eugene Hutz.

Starr was featured in the film and book "Sign Painters" and his work has seen coverage in media such as the Discovery Channel, NBC, Robb Report, Dallas Observer, Juxtapoz and ArtForum magazines.

Sean operates Starr Studios located in Central Texas and most of his original work today consists of gold leaf on glass known as verre eglomise.



SUSAN MANANDHAR

Susan is a professional private tour guide based in Kathmandu, and an awardee of the prestigious Global Guides Awards in 2016, 2017, and 2018. Susan has a profound enthusiasm for sharing the history and culture of Nepal, elevating any singular touristic excursion into a memorable experience that will last a lifetime.



VISHU SIJALI

Vishu began working in the trekking industry at the age of fifteen, and has even summited Mount Everest from the Tibet side. His first motorbike tour was from Shimla to Spitti Valley in India, and it inspired him to establish Altitude Riders which combined his love of guiding people through the mountains with his love for bike expeditions. Vishu Sijali lives and breathes adventure and creates trips that make you feel like you're traveling with an old friend.



TASHI LAMA

Tashi is a third generation Thangka master, with over 20 years of experience. Tashi is also the owner of Rincheling Thangka Gallery and Art School in Boudha just steps away from the Boudhanath Stupa in Nepal where he passes down the traditional craft of Buddhist scroll painting.



RAJU SHRESTHA

Raju is a sound healer working with hand made singing bowls at the Golden Temple Singing Bowl Shop & Healing Center in Lalitpur, Nepal. Raju specializes in the tune, frequency, vibration, art, sound, and chakras related to this form of holistic healing.



PRATEKS SHRESTHA

Prateks is a fifth generation singing bowl manufacturer who co-owns the Harati Singing Bowl factory in Lalitpur, Nepal with his uncle, a renowned sound master named Santa Ratna Shakyas. This factory is known for the quality of the singing bowls which are made from 7 metals and hammered by hand.



LALIT PRAJAPATI

Lalit is a potter working in Bhaktapur with a traditional non-electric wheel which he spins with a stick. At the time of filming, Lalit was 78 years old, and showed no signs of slowing down the craft which had been passed down for many generations in his family.



KRISHNA MAYA SHILPAKAR

Krishna Maya is the matriarch of the Shilpakar family and oversees the operations at the Dattatraya Woodcarving Factory, a family business that produces architectural and decorative wood carvings, all hand made by techniques that have been in the family for over 400 years.



RAMNARAYAN PRAJAPATI

Ram is the owner of the Peacock Shop in Bhaktapur Nepal where he runs a lokta paper factory. The prized export of the shop is a book written by his son titled 'Glimpses from Nepal: First Step into the World of Hindu and Buddhist Imagery'. Ram also collects traditional Nepali art, proudly displaying the antiquities throughout his building.



BEL BAHADUR THAPA

Bill is a village elder in Gulmi, Nepal who is passionate about preserving the traditional song and dance of the Magar people. After his retirement from the Indian army, he now spends his time playing the drums and teaching kids how to dance.



TOPALA THAPA & LAUMAYA SHRIS

Topala & Laumaya are notable farmers and social workers from the Gulmi area in Nepal who are working to preserve the traditional language, dress, and customs of the Magar people by its inclusion in the local school's curriculum.



DEV TARAMU

Dev is an artisan living in the foothills of the Himalayas who learned the trade of basketweaving from an early age by watching his father. In the film, Dev stops by our campsite to illustrate how to make a nanglo (serving tray) from bamboo which he harvested the day prior.

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