

KUNGA TASHI LEPCHA

Born 1988. Gangtok, Sikkim, India.

Photographer/Cinematographer based out of Sikkim, India.

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2018 - 2023 - Currently working as an independent photographer based out of Gangtok, Sikkim. ([STUDIO PARKHANG](#))

2016 –2018 - Digitization of documents and cataloging photographs from the Sikkim Palace Archives from 1875 – 1975 A.D, belonging to the royal family of the former Himalayan kingdom of Sikkim, funded by The British Library. ([Project Denjong](#))

2016 - Research and documentation on '[Crafts of Uttarakhand](#)', for a Book project with Chitku Design Studio, commissioned by UHHDC (Uttarakhand Handloom & Handicrafts Development Council).

2012-2015 - In-house photographer/cinematographer for "ECHOSTREAM", a multi-disciplinary design studio in Gangtok, Sikkim. (www.echostream.in)

COMMISSIONS / PUBLICATIONS

2023 - Photo Essay for [Caravan Magazine](#).

2022 - Commissioned Assignments for [SIKKIM PROJECT](#).

2022 - [Assignment on Climate Change and Mitigation Plan](#) for India-Swiss Embassy and Swiss Development and Cooperation.

2019 - Documentation to promote Ecotourism for World Wildlife Fund's environmental conservation initiatives in Sikkim.

2019 - Reportage for National Media Agencies like Indian Express, India Today and [EastMojo](#).

2018 - [Crafts Of Uttarakhand](#).

2016 - Sikkim: The Reinvention of Identities and Culture. [Marg Magazine](#).

EXHIBITIONS / TALKS

2023 - Representating "The Confluence Collective", at the [Serendipity Art Festival](#), Goa .

2022 - Group Exhibition, "[In Search Of An Oasis](#)" commissioned by Swiss Embassy, at the Visual Art Gallery, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India.

2022 - Photo projection for the series "[Days Of Summer](#)", Curated by 13Jara Collective and Chennai Photo Bienalle. At [Rencontres d'Arles Photo Festival](#), Arles, France.

2021 - [Photographs](#) exhibited at TED Countdown Summit in Edinburgh and UN climate change conference (COP26) in Glasgow, UK.

2020 - Online Artist talk at the Egara Photo Festival.

2020 - Online collective talk representing "The Confluence Collective" on Asian Photography Collectives & Groups - Taking Initiative, Angkor Photo Festival.

2019 - Pursuing Arts in Research (PAIR) Festival, The Secretariat, Yangon, Myanmar. An exhibit of the project, "THE FRONTIER PASS".

2018 - Angkor Photo Workshop Projection, [Angkor Photo Workshop](#), Siem Reap, Cambodia.

2018 - An exhibit of the project, "THE FRONTIER PASS". The People's Studio, Gangtok, Sikkim, India.

2018 - Exhibiting artist and Artist Talk at the Sangai Photo Festival, Imphal, Manipur, India.

RESIDENCY

2022 - Strengthening Networks Residency, among artists from North East India, funded by Goethe Institute, Max Mueller Bhavan, Guwahati, Assam.

ENGAGEMENTS

[THE CONFLUENCE COLLECTIVE](#)

Founding member of “The Confluence Collective”, Est. 2020. We are a collective of photographers and researchers working with our respective interests to create a common platform to bring together visual and oral stories of the Sikkim-Darjelling Himalayas. We endeavor to strengthen this platform by bringing together art practices and research from and of the region. We believe that in doing so we can offer an alternative space to understand the Hills and its history beyond the homogenized, colonial discourses that continue to dominate the understanding of the place. Through close engagements with the local community, we hope to build a strong creative and collaborative platform fostering a culture of knowledge production and sharing from the margins.

AWARDS / NOMINATION

2021 - Nominated for Unsung – Srishti Digilife Grant for Photography, 2021.
2019 - Grantee for Amiyaprabha Chaudhuri Memorial Grant, [Egaro Photo Festival](#).

PHOTOGRAPHY / FILM WORKSHOPS

[VITAL IMPACTS ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY GRANTS | MENTORSHIP RECIPIENTS](#) | 2023

[JIO MAMI MUMBAI FILM FESTIVAL COLORIST WORKSHOP](#) | 2023

[ANGKOR PHOTO FESTIVAL /WORKSHOP](#), CAMBODIA | 2018

Participated in the Visual Storytelling workshop, organized by Angkor Photo Festival, Siem Reap, Cambodia. Mentored by Kosuke Okahara and Veejay Villafranca.

[PHOTO.CIRCLE](#), NEPAL | 2017

Participated in a seven days intensive workshop on Introduction to Storytelling, organized by Focus Kalimpong, in association with Photo.circle, held in West Bengal, India.

[FILM-MAKING WORKSHOP](#), GANGTOK, SIKKIM | 2017

Participated in a 5 day film workshop on exploring culture and identity organised by [Project Denjong](#).

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

[PROJECT FRONTIER PASS](#)

Project Frontier Pass is aimed at documenting the borderlands and the peripheral spaces of South Asia. As a partnership between a photographer who works in photo-documentation in the Himalayas and a research student specializing in Indian history and the history of borderlands in south asia and we began to explore peripheral spaces primarily along the Indian border.

SHORT FILM - [BALLOON](#)

Short film about a boy who finds a balloon.

REFERENCES

- PEMA CHOEDEN NAMGYAL ABRAHAMS.
Founder Director- Project Denjong (Gangtok, Sikkim, India)
Email : pemaabrahams@gmail.com
- PRIYANKA TOLIA
Founder Director – Chitku Design Studio, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India)
Email : priyankatolia@gmail.com
- SONAM TASHI GYALTSHEN
Founder Director – Echostream (Design Studio, Gangtok, Sikkim, India)
Founder Director – La Design
Email : sonam.gyaltsen@gmail.com