

Tibet June 2016



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After two flights and a long drive by car, I reached the rolling Grasslands of Tibet . The mountains on the plateau are old and impressive, the light hits the tops and gently rolls over the plains, the hills, towards the sharper edged mountains. The environment is beautiful and harsh at the same time. Winters hit below -15 and the sun burns strong rays. The nomads however can survive in such a hash climate and live of their cattle.

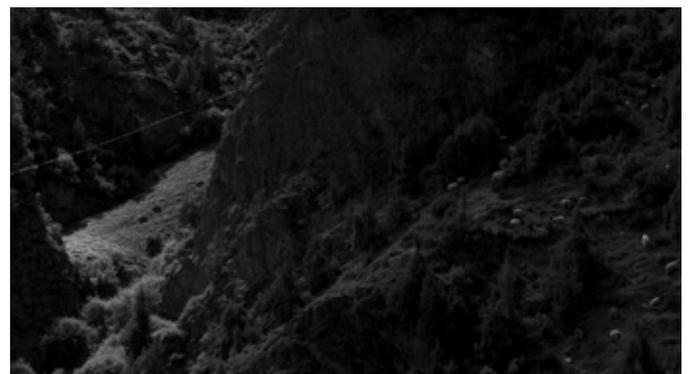


Horsemen on their way home

Soon after getting climatized to the hight and atmosphere I decide things would be much easier if I was to get rid of my fear for big dogs. The Tibetan mas-sifs that guard at each corner of the lands divided by tents and families are impressive.

Many days followed of walking during dusk and dawn with my camera equipment loaded backpack. After days of walking I often reach a point finally feel at ease enough to let the landscape sink into my veins.

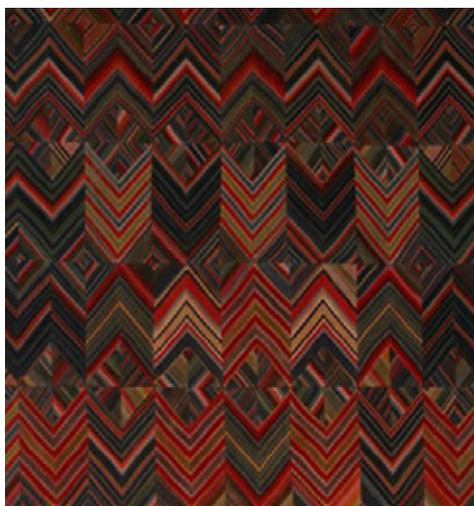
I know what I want to document and how the landscape feels from the inside of those old mountains to the elusive fast air and clouds passing on the outside. The light. The endless curves, gentle hairs of green and the harsh dry earth. Running into various paths that were seem to be made by the passing by of herds (sheep and yak) and their to horsemen made the endless trails a lot more fun. Around each corner of a mountain there was another mountain and another to explore. A never ending trip it could be. The sites of burrial and or offerings are marking important cross road during my field trips.



sheep traveling uphill before the sun sets



tent made of Yakwool



traditional textile

After 2 week when I had shot most of my material and lived amongst them for long enough to know who to talk to, I dared the nomads to make a textile based on the photographs I had been taken of their landscape.



Horse man during festival

They said 'yes'. We will base on their traditional craft and local patterns and choice of color, but yet inspired by my first impressions of the landscape they know so well.

We spend 5 days talking, sharing knowledge before I went home to Amsterdam where I started working on a solid plan to collaborate with people that live so far away from computers and technology as such.

It is winter today and I have set up a way to communicate over a long distance and we are finalizing the first few designs at this moment.

My trip to Tibet brought me a very valuable time in sharing perspectives. View points on patterns of life, nature and resulting in those of woven textile.

By now it is so cold that the nomads can not weave. But coming March we continue the weaving in order to have it ready by Spring. I love to keep you posted on the outcome and we will show the photo works I made during the past trip together with the textiles.

Thank you for making this collaboration possible.

Roosmarijn Pallandt