

PETER ELLISTON BROKEN MONUMENTS

Peter Elliston. *Swimming Pool, Mehrauli, New Delhi*

EXHIBITION: Peter Elliston **BROKEN MONUMENTS**
OPENING NIGHT: Wednesday, September 2 6-8pm
ARTIST TALK: Saturday, September 12th at 3pm

VENUE: Storm Gallery,
2/65-67 Foveaux Street, Surry Hills

PHONE: 02 9211 3193
DATES: September 2 - 19, 2009
OPENING HOURS: 11 - 4pm Monday – Saturday (or contact gallery)
VISIT: www.arthere.com.au
EVENT: This is a Free event. All welcome!

Peter Elliston BROKEN MONUMENTS September 2 – 19 Storm Gallery, 2/65-67 Foveaux Street, Surry Hills

The major religions have left monuments scattered all over India, a wonderland of ancient temples and royal tombs. Most are neglected and slowly disappearing, their structures often utilized for houses, shops and other functions.

Many of the photographs in this exhibition were taken in New Delhi, which was described over two centuries ago by British traveller William Franklin, as “covered with the crumbling remains of gardens, pavilions and burying places.” The title for this exhibition was inadvertently offered by a taxi driver when the photographer explained that he didn’t want to see grand monuments like the Taj Mahal and was interested instead in neglected sites - an unusual request for a visitor to New Delhi. The driver suddenly understood his request exclaiming, “Ah! What you want to see is ‘**broken**’ monuments!”

This new body of work from veteran photographer Peter Elliston is further evidence of his long term love of intrepid travelling. Always fascinated by unmapped territory, this exhibition reveals something uncelebrated and hidden; a history now quietly disappearing – the *broken* monuments of India.

Using a 5x4” camera means Elliston maintains a deliberate and more formal approach to his work. This is a big camera to lug around and set up, but the rewards to such methodology are the incredible detail the camera brings to the image. A photographer does not go unnoticed with such equipment and in New Delhi where people and noise are a constant, Elliston has managed to capture quiet moments in his photographs. He draws our attention to what is being forgotten and to how people adapt to the environment around them.

Lovers of all things *India* will not be disappointed with this collection of quietly perceptive images. They are full of a subtle honoring of things gone past and serve to remind us of everything under-appreciated – our history, our culture, our heritage, our relationship to the past.

Elliston was inspired to travel to India and record this story after reading a Time article titled *Heaps of History* (TIME, July 18, 2005) about the lack of restoration and simple love and care to religious and historical buildings in Indian cities. This is particularly true of New Delhi where thousands of buildings are now at risk.

Peter Elliston is an established Sydney art photographer. His work is held in collections around the world including Paris and London and locally in the National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, NSW State Library and many public and private collections. He has travelled all over the world photographing people, places and monuments and has published four books of his own, including *Stones and Marks* (Lodima Press 2004) a book of monochrome photographs of ruins and monuments of cultural importance from Petra, Jordan to Uluru, Central Australia. His work has been published widely and exhibited in many solo and group shows in Australia and overseas. Elliston is well known for his portrait series documenting the people swimming at Wylie’s Baths, Coogee.

ARTHERE would love you to feature, mention and/or include this show in your publication. If you would like to do a bigger feature on the artist and his work I would be very happy to set up an interview, as well as forward further information, bios and background. I have attached a series of images from the exhibition, **Peter Elliston Broken Monuments** at low-res and can send through high-res on request.

ARTHERE represents the highest quality in photography. We work with selected high calibre artists, exhibiting their artwork in appropriate venues around Sydney. Please consider our exhibitions for press attention and we welcome critique and reviews of all our shows. Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kindest regards,
Cassandra French for ARTHERE www.athere.com.au
0416 209 391