

For Immediate Release

WHAT WAS HOME (2007-2010)

Photographs by Dileep Prakash

Opening Reception on Saturday, 26th March, 2011

On view till 28th May, 2011

Photoink is pleased to present *What Was Home*, an exhibition and book of photographs by Dileep Prakash. Triggered by a desire to revisit the past and explore memories attached to his alma mater, Mayo College, Ajmer, where he spent nine formative years, Prakash then expanded his interest to include 18 other boarding schools that held a similar resonance for him. *What Was Home* is an intimate tale of reminiscences by a photographer who is not only reviving his own memories but is also projecting them on to familiar spaces of 'fear, loneliness and surprise'.

Prakash's negotiation of his past and revisiting the *spaces* of his childhood reflects on the changing nature of memory; that what was once a space marked by loneliness and homesickness is now revisited with empathy and detachment imbued with nostalgia. These photographs, when viewed through the lingering intimacy of Prakash's photographic gaze, evoke memories—some real and some distorted by time—one reminisces about engraving names on school desks, graffiti on walls, the forbidden midnight feasts, hushed conversations about ghosts that inhabit school buildings and the frenzied rush to bathe in shared bathrooms. The familiarity of these spaces and experiences invite us within the walls of what once, indeed, was home.

To accompany the exhibition, a book titled, *What Was Home* will be released at the opening reception.

Book specifications

80 pages, 46 tritone plates

23.2 x 17.2 cm

Hardback

Essay by Deepak Ananth

Published by Photoink (2011)

BIOGRAPHY

Dileep Prakash (b.1965) has been photographing for 20 years. A considerable part of Prakash's work navigates memory and the passage of time. His fascination for steam locomotives began early when he travelled between his boarding school and home. By the mid-90s, most steam locomotives had been retired but he was able to photograph the last of the steam trains and the people who worked on them. His project on the Anglo-Indian community (2004–2006) led him to the far corners of India, making portraits of a community in twilight. Solo exhibitions include *The Anglo-Indians* at The Goethe-Institut, Frankfurt (2006), Photoink, New Delhi (2008) and Photo Phnom Penh, Phnom Penh (2010). Group exhibitions include *Photoquai Biennale* at the Musee du Quai Branly, Paris (2007), *The Self and the Other – Portraiture in Contemporary Indian Photography* at the Palau de la Virreina and Artium in Spain (2009), *Where Three Dreams Cross: 150 years of Photography from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh* at the Whitechapel Gallery, London (2009) and Fotomuseum Winterthur, Winterthur (2010). The book, *The Anglo-Indians* was published by Photoink in 2008. Prakash's recent exhibition, *What Was Home* is accompanied by a book, published by Photoink (2011).