

HIMALAYA, the Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies

Volume 33 | Number 1

Article 5

March 2014

Gallery

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Recommended Citation

Ogura, Saori. 2014. Gallery. HIMALAYA 33(1).

Available at: https://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/himalaya/vol33/iss1/5



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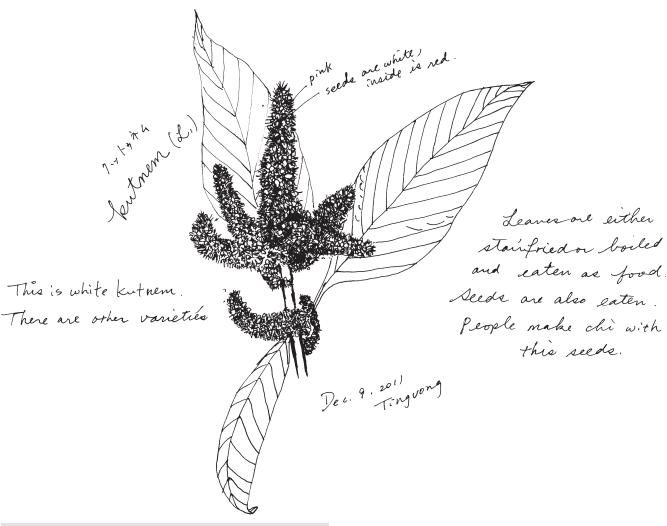


Gallery | Sketchbook

SAORI OGURA (M.S. Ecological Leadership and Education and B.A. Political Science) is a naturalist, artist and writer. She has worked and travelled in Darjeeling and Sikkim with the Ashoka Trust for Research and the Environment (ATREE). Her research looked into changes in agricultural patterns and livelihoods over the past century in indigenous Lepcha villages. She also worked on an educational initiative in Bhutan based on Gross National Happiness (GNH) during an internship at UNESCO. Saori is interested in peoples' relationships to nature and how these interactions have changed through modernization. She is currently pursuing a Master of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning degree at the School of Environmental Design, UC Berkeley.

From the moment that I take a pen into my hand, I am pulled into the world of the object that I am about to draw. I enter the world of the object itself, which is not like seeing it from outside or like taking a photograph. At that point, every detail becomes apparent to me, and I see what I hadn't been able to see when I was holding a camera.

Drawing is a practice that melts into our hearts. Any drawing that comes out from me is a characteristic of myself. I show my personality through my drawings. This is why I believe children and adults come to surround me when I draw plants or landscapes in their villages. Such drawing is a form of communication with local people, and it helps develop lasting ties.



A traditional food in a Lepcha garden. Amaranthus viridis

