

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SASKATOON PHOTOGRAPHER DUSTIN MAIN DEBUTS “THIS MYANMAR LIFE”

Documentary photography exhibition 5 years in the making.

Saskatoon, Sk, May 18, 2016— The Gallery at Frances Morrison Library will open a unique exhibition featuring photography and stories of change from the little-known country of Myanmar on June 2nd, on view until July 7th. **This Myanmar Life** features 18 photographs by Dustin Main, each accompanied by a short essay about the changing stories of the subjects’ lives. In addition, the exhibition will flow onto the internet with an online element to allow the viewer to dive deeper into the stories and subjects, and make it accessible to those around the world.

After decades spent closed off from much of the world under a series of harsh military dictatorships, the country of Myanmar (formerly Burma) began opening its doors after elections in late 2010. Since 2011 the country has continued to work towards democracy, along the way allowing economic sanctions installed by the west to be loosened, and information from the rest of the world to pour in.

Dustin Main has traveled to Myanmar more than a dozen times, spending more than a year in the country to document the rapid changes taking place, and how those changes have been affecting the stories told by the citizens of the country.

*“I’m fascinated by the idea of change, and **This Myanmar Life** is about how these recent cultural, economic and political changes are affecting the stories of the people I’ve met during my time in the country. From two communities coming together to build a road that the government failed to do, to how a former political prisoner got his nickname, to understanding how dating in a small mountain village works. I hope it helps bridge a gap between the viewer and life in a country on the other side of the globe, and highlights what really is the same and different between all of us around the world.*

Along with a presentation at the opening reception at 7pm on June 2nd, Dustin Main will be giving a second artist talk at 7pm on Thursday June 16th entitled “Behind the Stories of This Myanmar Life.” Both events are open to the public and free of charge.

“On June 16th, 2016 hear and see the stories behind the stories of the exhibition, “This Myanmar Life,” as photographer Dustin Main talks about secret police, lost passports, and disappearing friends during his five year documentary project.

Originally from Saskatoon, Dustin Main's drive for adventure and documentary / cultural photography work has led him to projects in Myanmar, Jordan, New Zealand and Iran among others. His work has been featured by Lonely Planet, Travel & Leisure, and the Huffington Post. Recently he was named one of Canada's top travel bloggers. His book "This Myanmar Life" is due out in late 2016. "This Myanmar Life" is his first exhibition.

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If you would like more images or more information about **This Myanmar Life**, please contact Dustin Main at 306-881-4310 or email at dustin@lightmovescreative.org.

