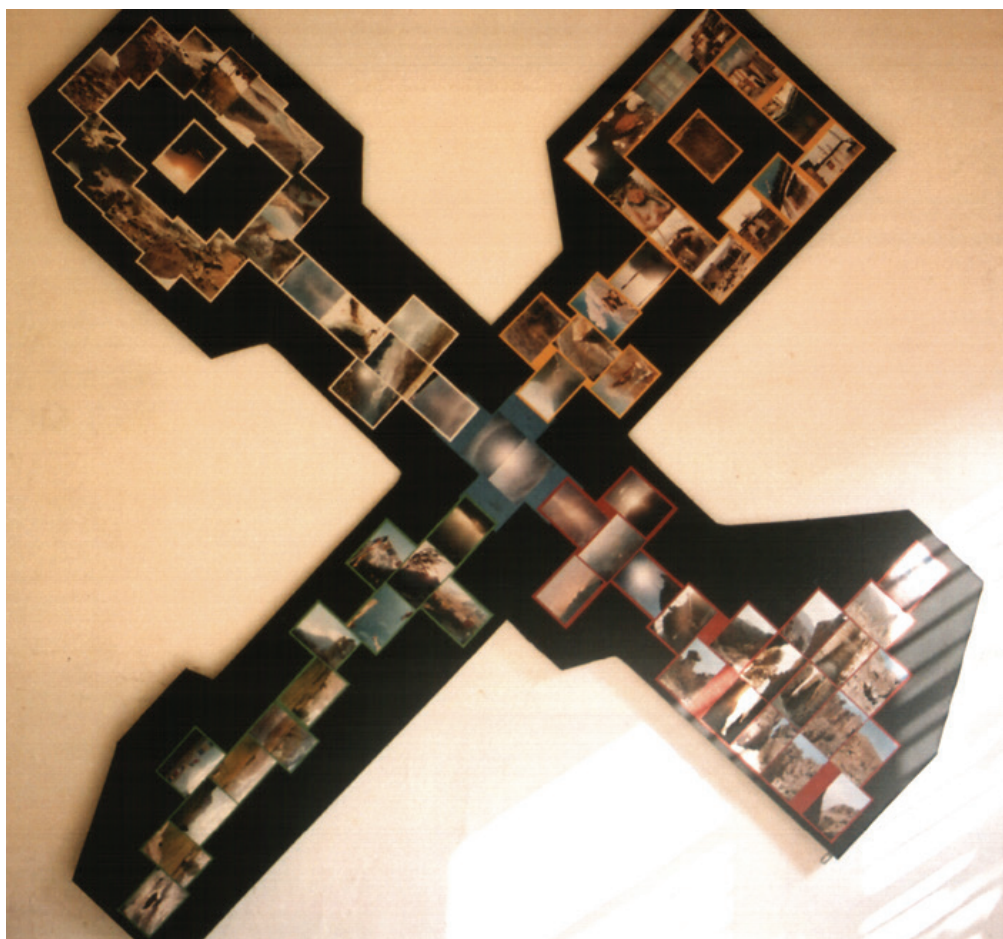


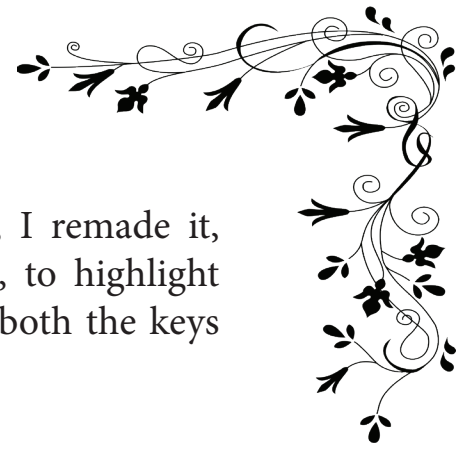
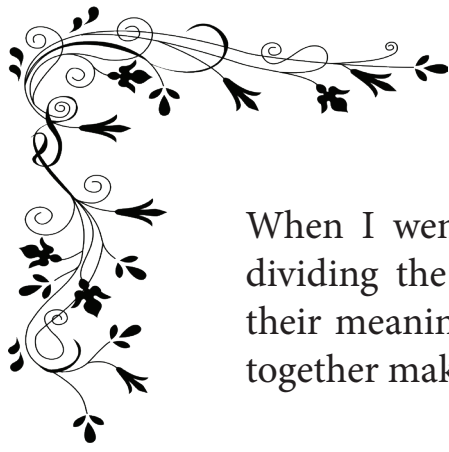
Two Keys, One Lock (2005, 2007)

All the photographs that make up this entire image were taken in and around the valley of Muktinath, which is located in the Trans-Himalayan region of Mustang in Northern Nepal. Individually, they are pictures of many of its different aspects, but grouped together they become a coded description of its inner nature.

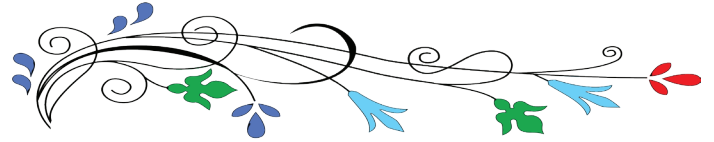
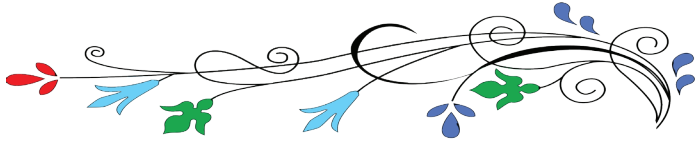
I made the first version of this piece for a photo exhibition, entitled, 'Virtual Mustang', held in the Lazimpat gallery café, Kathmandu, Nepal in November 2005.



Picture of First Version, (2005)



When I went to live in Mussoorie in 2007, I remade it, dividing the two keys into different colours, to highlight their meaning as a unity of duality, wherein both the keys together make up one lock.



‘Two Keys, One Lock’ is a cornerstone of each of the other photo collage art pieces, as it relates to the central theme of the five elements, the dance of the arising and dissolving of creation going on simultaneously and continuously as it emerges into gross manifestation and dissolves back into its base nature.

The concept of the five elements arises again and again in my work, unsurprisingly so, as the nature of the elements is so integral to the nature of consciousness.

In their representative shapes and colours according to classical highest tantric yoga of Tibetan Buddhism, you will find them displayed in the four outer directions here.

Air (wind)-green-bowl shaped - bottom left

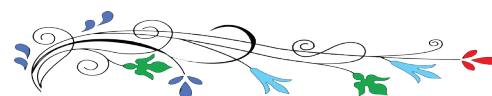
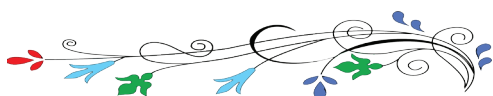
Fire-red-triangular - bottom right

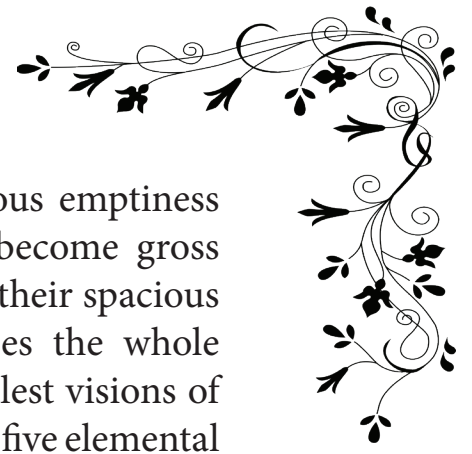
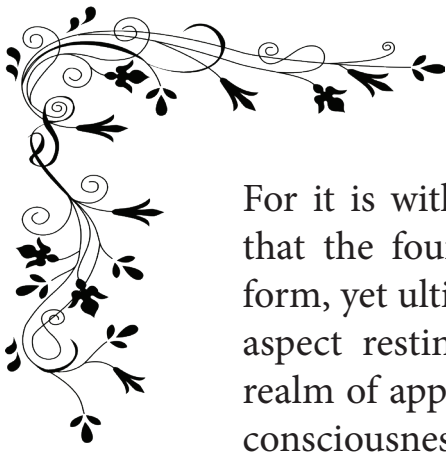
Water-white-circular - top left

Earth-yellow-square – top right

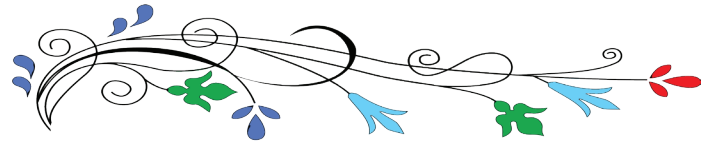
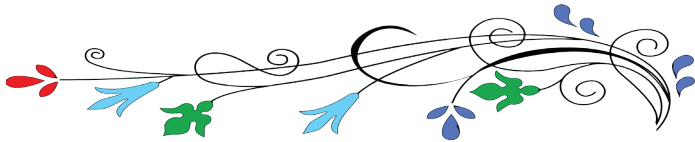
The fifth element of space, traditionally depicted as blue, is in the centre, as it is the common denominator of the other four elements.

Without a container of space there would be no place for the other 4 elements to dance out their act of manifestation, a process that begins with movement, ‘GREEN WIND’ arising due to ‘BLUE SPACE’ becoming heated by ‘RED FIRE’, which melts potential archetypal seed forms of ‘YELLOW EARTH’ into liquid, ‘WHITE WATER’.

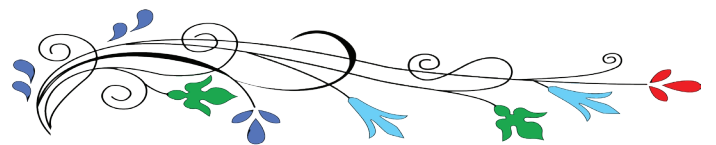
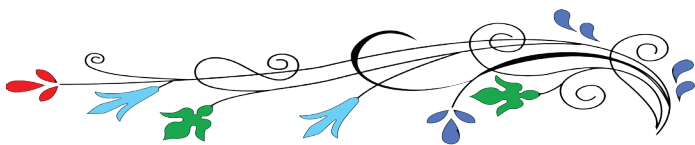




For it is within the creative quality of spacious emptiness that the four aspects of the elements may become gross form, yet ultimately they never separate from their spacious aspect resting at their central place. So does the whole realm of appearance, from its grossest to subtlest visions of consciousness, appear as a blazing dance of the five elemental forces.

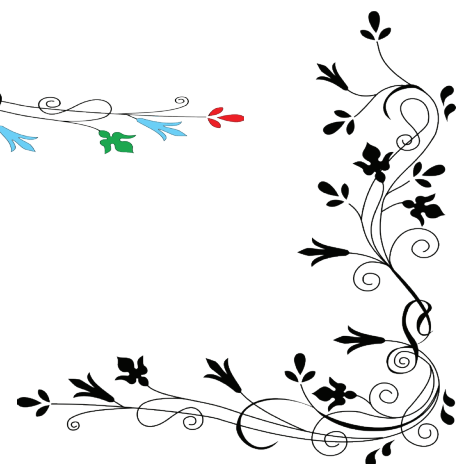
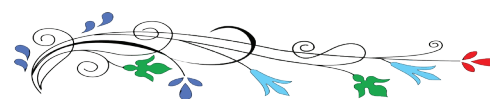
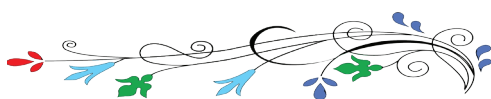
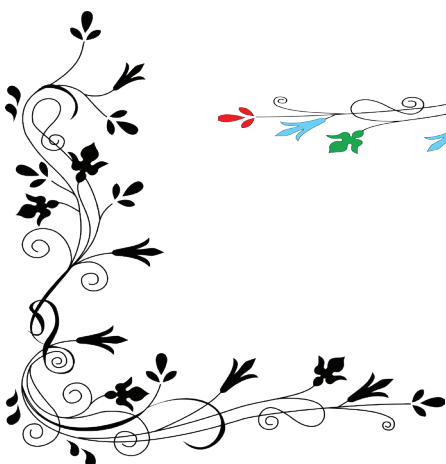


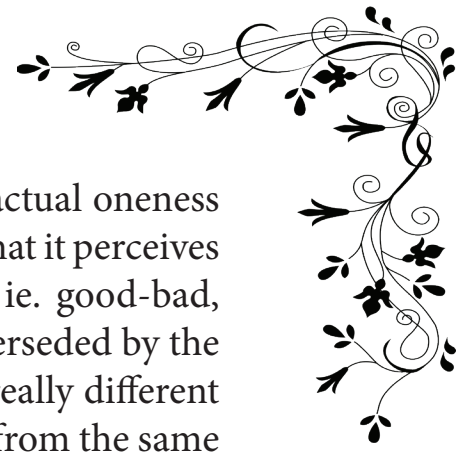
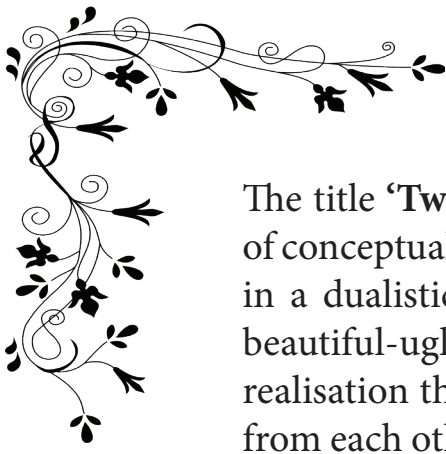
The photos depicting each of these shapes, in some way correspond to their meaning. Therefore, in the wind section, there are photos of trees, flags and greenery. In the fire section, pictures of the 'cave cities' of the Muktinath valley that are reputedly home to invisible 'enlightened female beings', who correlate to the fire of wisdom form the shape of a volcano. Other solid objects, like houses, rocks and stones are on the square of earth and a flow of water runs in a circle around the white ring in the top left corner.



All layers or rather, dimensions of every kind of aspect of reality are simultaneously arising from and dissolving back into their base nature. This is expressed through a spinning spiral aspect, continuously occurring here, in both directions.

Rotating from the center to the left hand corner in an anti-clockwise direction it shows the 4 elemental universe emerging within space and becoming gross solid appearance; space, followed by wind, fire, water and earth, a process through which consciousness at its most subtle state of awareness becomes grosser and grosser and the other way round in a clockwise direction, in which gross solid appearance is dissolving back into its essential nature.





The title ‘**Two Keys, One Lock**’ refers to the actual oneness of conceptual mind that nevertheless judges what it perceives in a dualistic and therefore judgmental way ie. good-bad, beautiful-ugly, etc... When that duality is superseded by the realisation that these polar opposites are not really different from each other because they are manifesting from the same

spacious source and are never actually separated from it, then an understanding of non-duality may arise.

Timeless and immortal, having no beginning and no end, and therefore no linear function of time, the reality lying before us is just a kaleidoscopic play of light and sound twisting and turning within an all-pervading presence. This very essential state of mind is often termed as ‘clear light’, where by the rest of appearance is just its clothes, make-up and jewellery.

When we, as humans are able to perceive this level of oneness, when we can stand at the centre of the process as the wisdom/intelligence aspect consciously perceiving the five elements into being, then the five elements of our existence may transform their dance from one of jealousy, desire, anger, pride and ignorance due to thinking they are real, into one of happiness, joy, wisdom, compassion and equanimity naturally manifesting in everything and everyone we meet.

In this state, mind’s perceptive quality allows what it senses just to manifest as it is naturally, with neither judgement nor opinion, nor an over riding emotional response, because it knows the natural process.

