

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

MARY LYON AWARD 2018

PRESENTED TO



Nayan Tara Gurung Kakshapati '05

NAYANTARA GURUNG KAKSHAPATI, CLASS OF 2005, the Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College is pleased to honor you with the Mary Lyon Award. This award is presented to an alumna who graduated no more than fifteen years ago and who has demonstrated sustained achievements in her life and career consistent with the humane values that Mary Lyon exemplified and inspired in others.

NayanTara, as a student of documentary photography, your humanitarian work has transformed your native country of Nepal. Your work is celebrated for capturing the new demarcations and identities that have emerged as the nation continues to rebuild.

After graduation from the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies in Portland, Maine, you returned to Nepal to begin working as a freelance photographer and multimedia producer. Your work intimately documented Nepal and its dynamic struggle to find peace after the country's decadelong civil war. In 2017 you cofounded photo.circle, a collective that creates a vibrant platform for emerging and professional photographers. In the wake of the catastrophic 2015 Nepal earthquake, you founded The Yellow House at your family's bed and breakfast of the same name. The Yellow House is a Kathmandu-based grassroots group that brought aid to survivors and was credited as one of the most effective disaster response organizations in Nepal. In addition, you raised more than 83,000 euros through your relief fund and established the Nepal Photo Project on Instagram to raise awareness of relief efforts. Your humanitarian work has been chronicled by many media outlets, including National Public Radio, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and *The New York Times*, informing and inspiring many across the globe.

NAYANTARA, in recognition of your exceptional early career achievements and in anticipation of your future contributions to global humanitarianism, the Alumnae Association is honored to present you with the Mary Lyon Award.

MARCIA BRUMIT KROPF '67
PRESIDENT
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

NANCY BELLOWS PEREZ '76
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE