

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Preview: October 1-2, 11 am – 6 pm  
October 3-November 2, 2014

## 'NEARdistance'

*Solo exhibition of paintings, prints and drawings.  
Mythical and real landscapes.*

## Gale Wallar

**Opening Reception:**

**Friday, October 3, 6 - 8:30 pm**

**Closing Reception: Thursday, October 30, 6 - 8:30 pm**



Wallar explains the theme *NEARdistance*: "Far distances draw us in and encourage us to find a sacred place within oneself. Spiritual mountains seem distant, engaging us in a struggle to reach the summit or enlightenment. Mountains, whether real or mythical, cause us to reflect, think – 'coming into the near distance' to coin a phrase."

Most of the acrylic and oil paintings in *NEARdistance* have a unifying element: mountains. For many years, Wallar lived in or near the Alps, observing and recording their magic. From there to Indonesia, a fascination with mountains was enriched by learning about Hindu Buddhist culture in which mountains were at the center of a spiritual universe. Wallar views mountains as "enthraling. Rising from hills, ragged edges rocketing into the sky. Capturing, reflecting, absorbing every light and weather. They are majestic, silent, enduring and alive."

The drawings and prints were inspired by treasures of Javanese culture and iconography and have been put in a new context. Images from the distant past, such as from the great Buddhist monument, Borobudur, a spiritual mountain itself, have been adapted and reinvented into new mythical landscapes. Wallar focuses on simplification, eliminating the extraneous and emphasizing color in the variety of media in this exhibit. All of the work, whether representational landscapes/mountains or invented mythical landscapes, represents an attempt to come into the *NEARdistance*, to reflect on the essential present.



For Wallar, a phrase by Jack Kerouac sums it up quite well:  
"To me a mountain is a Buddha. Think of the patience, hundreds of thousands of years just sittin there bein perfectly silent and like praying for all living creatures in that silence and just waitin for us to stop all our frettin and foolin."

*Images: Near Distance and Javanese Goddess by Gale Wallar*

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