



Please join us on **Thursday 5 January from 7pm** for an Artist's talk with Damon Kowarsky and an evening of wine and art to close out **Reprise - 2011** and celebrate the New Year!

Damon will discuss his pieces in the current exhibition and his working trips to Pakistan and Yemen as we lead up to the opening of our next group exhibition, *Méré Humd(r)um*, featuring a new wave of young contemporary Pakistani artists, many showing for the first time in New York.

From Damon:

"These prints came out of two journeys - to Yemen in 2005/6 and Pakistan and India in 2007/8. In both cases what attracted me to these places, apart from the incredibly rich local culture and warm and hospitable people, was the distinctive historic and contemporary architecture. In Yemen much of this is mud; on the subcontinent concrete, brick and stone.

But regardless of materials or location these buildings reflect the culture, climate and society they belong to. In Yemen they take the form of defensive villages atop the ridges of hills. In Pakistan and India houses with internal courtyards, narrow alleys and flat roofs upon which to 'sleep... outdoors ... on hot summer nights, wishing upon shooting stars and storytelling'.

The cities shown in these prints are not well known. They have no obvious tourist landmarks. What they do reflect, for each place they depict, is the sense of the city as somewhere built out of the collective works and dreams of all their inhabitants.

Aminabad is a town marooned by Partition and the changing flows of migration and trade. Nila Gombit an intersection near the centre of old Lahore where a stately dome competes with the noise of traffic and the banners of bicycle repair shops. Taj Ganj that district of Agra just next to, but always outside, the Taj Mahal.

And as Calvino, in describing one city, describes all cities, these prints, so particular to one place, connect to all of us who share the experience of living in common with each other. In places neither planned nor designed but arrived at through fortune, labour, and pure good luck."

Hope to see you there!  
Aicon Gallery  
35 Great Jones St New York