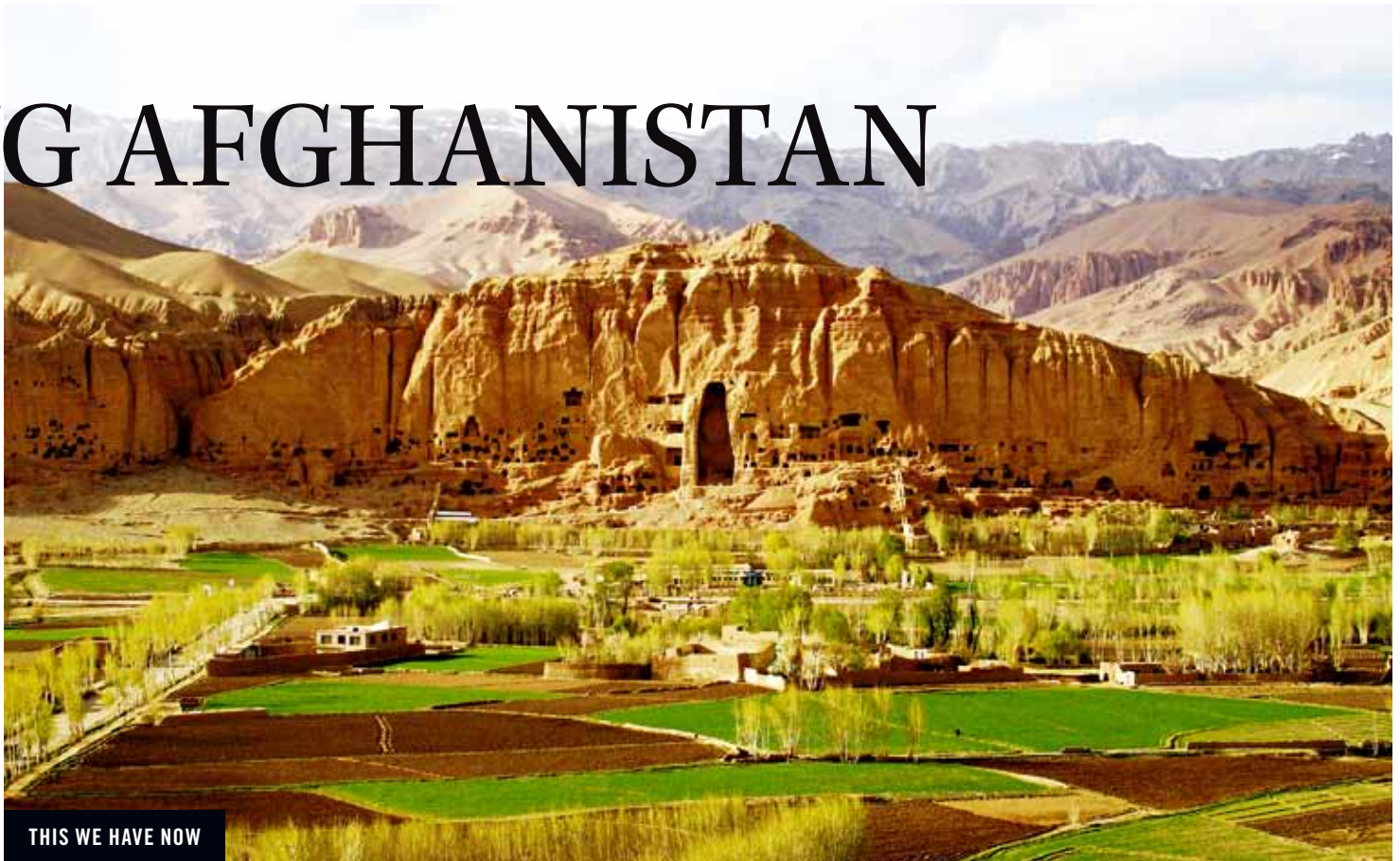


AMAZING AFGHANISTAN

Artist and photographer A. Kather is from Afghanistan, where his family, including five sisters, are still in hiding. *Inside Afghanistan's Beauty* reveals a side of the country rarely portrayed in the media – the awesome natural beauty of ancient and sacred places. This collection of landscape photography is one of the first major photographic exhibitions of Afghanistan in Australia by an Afghan artist. Kather is part of the *With One Voice* program, which helped to achieve his dream of a solo photography exhibition. All works are printed on colour archival photographic paper and come framed in a limited edition of five. \ editorial@theweeklyreview.com.au



THIS WE HAVE NOW

Not Here, 2007

There's courage involved if you want to become truth. There is a broken-

open place in a lover. Where are those qualities of bravery and sharp

compassion in this group? What's the use of old and frozen thought? I want

a howling hurt. This is not a treasury where gold is stored; this is for copper.

We alchemists look for talent that can heat up and change. Lukewarm

won't do. Half-hearted holding back, well-enough getting by? Not here.

About the place \ BAND-E-AMIR

The glittering lakes of Band-e-Amir must rank as Afghanistan's most astounding natural sight, hidden in the Koh-e-Baba at an altitude of 2900 metres. A series of six linked lakes, their deep-blue waters sparkle like otherworldly jewels against the dusty mountains that surround them.



NOT HERE

The Freshness, 2005

When it's cold and raining, you are more beautiful.

And the snow brings me even closer to your lips.

The inner secret, that which was never born, you are that freshness, and I am with you now.

I can't explain the goings, or the comings. You enter suddenly,

and I am nowhere again. Inside the majesty.

About the place \ SHAHR-E-GHOLGHOLA

The remains of Hazaras Bamiyan's last stand against the Mongol hordes is a 20-minute walk from Bamiyan. On a commanding rise, Shahr-e-Gholghola was reputedly the best defended of Bamiyan's royal citadels and was captured by intrigue rather than force of arms.



THE FRESHNESS

This We Have Now, 2007

This we have now is not imagination.

This is not grief or joy.

Not a judging state, or an elation, or sadness.

Those come and go.

This is the presence that doesn't.

About the place \ BAMIIYAN

The empty niches of the Buddha statues dominate the Bamiyan valley. Carved in the 6th century, the two statues, standing 38 metres and 55 metres respectively, were the tallest standing statues of Buddha ever made; a centre of art and pilgrimage that reached its apogee in the creation of the giant statues of Buddha, which overlooked the town until their senseless destruction by the Taliban in 2001.

» *Inside Afghanistan's Beauty* by A.Kather

August 17-October 30
Atrium Gallery, level 35,
Sofitel Melbourne On Collins,
25 Collins Street, Melbourne

All quoted poetry is by Rumi.