The Wonder and Loss of Familiar Places; some pictures and a talk about a painting project that might traverse culture.

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This presentation will be of interest to teachers, regional artists and audiences engaged in cross cultural exchange and community and to both domestic and international students studying Art. This presentation will outline my illustrated reflections on 3 projects which involve my making paintings that are motivated by my responses to travel in India, China and NZ. The most substantial: a two year project in painting that resulted in two exhibitions; one in Waikato Museum in Hamilton NZ and one in XLY Museum of Modern Art in Chengdu, China. The exhibitions included bodies of painting by myself and Xu Ze, an artist and teacher in Chengdu, China. The second, resulted in exhibitions in Christchurch, Wellington and Hamilton and the third, under development is planned for a show in Te Manawa Gallery, Palmerston North in 2015. I will describe the social and professional conditions in which these projects arose, their conceptual frameworks, show images of works from each project and exhibitions, consider the implicit and explicit dialogues between the works and make some reflection on the effects of this work on my perceptions of China, India and NZ. "The exhibitions will contribute to communities of learning and practice in Art as influenced by the 'internationalising' of Art and Education in NZ. The work will implicate both western and Chinese conventions of landscape painting. The dialogue in the exhibition will reveal modes of image making affected by the cultural origins of each artist, while reflecting commonalities of cultural memory and metaphor across cultures." I can consider the possibilities of these projects as a model for artistic practice that moves beyond an individuated and disinterested artistic practice to one that integrates every-day, exotic, and intellectual aspects of life in artistic practice.