

Mandala is a Sanskrit word meaning “circle.” The mandala, one of Himalayan Buddhism’s most ubiquitous symbols, is created as an artistic aid for meditation. Depicting a realm that is both complex and sacred, the mandala is a visualization tool meant to advance practitioners toward a state of enlightenment. The exhibition *Mandala: Sacred Circle in Tibetan Buddhism* explores the various manifestations of these objects, simultaneously explaining their symbolism, describing how they fulfill their intended function, and demonstrating their correlation to our physical reality.



Organized by the Rubin Museum of Art in New York, the exhibition includes paintings, three-dimensional works, and ritual objects related to mandala ceremonies from the Rubin’s collections as well as private and museum collections around the world.

A series of engaging educational programs will celebrate the rich religious and artistic tradition of Tibetan Buddhism and the spiritual significance of the mandala.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Monday, January 23
7:30 PM, Reception Hall

Lecture
Christian Luczanits, Curator at the Rubin Museum of Art
Dimensions of Sacred Space: Mandalas in Early Tibetan Buddhist Art and Architecture
The monuments of the Western Himalayas dating from the eleventh to the thirteenth century are rich in information on the mandala, its development, and different forms of usage. Presenting a range of examples from these monuments—in murals, sculpture, and architecture—this lecture will introduce some of the key notions underlying the practice of the mandala in the Buddhist context.

Thursday, January 26
5 PM, Tate Room

Workshop for Teachers
Explore the artistry and symbolism of Buddhist mandalas with Sara McClintock, in Emory’s Department of Religion. Teachers will tour the exhibition focusing on the forms and symbolism of mandalas, the deities represented in their centers, and their ritual and worldly use. Fee: \$7 for Museum members; \$10 for non-members. Registration is required by contacting Julie Green at jgreen09@emory.edu or 404-727-2363.

Wednesday, February 1–Saturday, February 11
(excluding Monday, February 6)

10 AM–4 PM Tuesday–Friday
10 AM–5 PM Saturdays
Noon–5 PM Sunday, Level Three Galleries

Sand Mandala Construction

Tibetan Buddhist monks from Drepung-Loseling Monastery construct the sand mandala of Guhyasamaja. Free with Museum admission.

Wednesday, February 1
7:30 PM, Reception Hall

Lecture
Sara McClintock, Associate Professor of Religion, Emory University
Transforming the Five Root Afflictions into the Five Wisdom Buddhas: The Mandala of the Five Buddha Families in Tibetan Buddhism
Tibetan Buddhism aims at a radical transformation of persons through the transmutation of afflicted bodies and minds into enlightened ones. The five root afflictions that affect all beings in various proportions are ignorance, hatred, craving, greed, and envy. When the energy of these afflictions is purified, the result is a particular kind of embodied enlightened wisdom. This talk explains the symbolism of the five wisdom Buddhas, and asks us to reflect on our own root afflictions with a view toward their eventual transformation.

Sunday, February 5
Ongoing from Noon–5 PM, Tate Room

Tibetan Sand Painting for Children
In this drop in activity, children of all ages are invited to observe the Tibetan monks of Drepung Loseling Monastery at work on the sand mandala and then create their own personal multicolored sand paintings using traditional copper tools and brightly colored sand. Free with Museum admission.

Mondays, February 6–27
7:30–9 PM, Reception Hall

Tibetan Buddhist Compassion Meditation Class
Geshe Lobsang Tenzin Negi, Director of the Emory-Tibet Partnership and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Religion, leads a four-week Tibetan Buddhist meditation class focusing on mindfulness, self-compassion, impartiality, empathy, and the giving and taking of compassion. The class will culminate in a meditation on an image of the Buddha of Compassion mandala. Fee: \$30 for Museum members; \$40 for non-members. Registration is required by calling 404-727-6118.

Thursday, February 9
7:30 PM, Reception Hall

Lecture
John Dunne, Associate Professor of Religion, Emory University
Embodying Nirvana: Meditations on Buddhist Mandalas
For the casual observer, a mandala appears to be a beautiful, geometrical design, but for the practitioner of Buddhist tantra, the mandala is a bridge to an alternative reality in which the wondrous qualities of enlightenment are literally embodied. Drawing on traditional Buddhist theories and current work on the nature of human cognition, this talk presents the central features of tantric meditation on mandalas along with its connection to the transformation of mind and body.

Wednesday, February 15
7:30 PM, Reception Hall

Lecture
Jacob Dalton, Assistant Professor of South Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley
The Dark Side: A History of Violence in Tibetan Buddhism
From images of peaceful monks meditating on mountainsides, to the Dalai Lama teaching compassion toward Tibet’s Chinese

carlos.emory.edu
404-727-4282



LEFT Universe Mandala. Tibet. 19th century. Metal, gilt, stone (turquoise), coral, glass, shell. © Division of Anthropology, American Museum of Natural History. Catalog # 70.3/1380.

BELOW Kīlacakra deity in Yabyum position with Viṣvamatr. Tibet. 18th century. Distemper on cotton. © Rubin Museum of Art, New York. 67.821/HAR87223.



oppressors, Tibetan Buddhism is widely portrayed as a religion of non-violence. Yet a closer look at the art of Tibet reveals quite another image. Witness the demonic beings dancing upon corpses, the skulls filled with blood, the fearsome weapons; this is a far more complex and ambivalent tradition than many imagine, one that at once condemns and embraces violence. In this talk, Dr. Dalton will focus on three vignettes, drawn from Tibetan myth, history, and geography and explore the disconcerting similarities between evil demons and the wrathful buddhas that tame them.

Saturday, February 18
10 AM, Level Three Galleries

Artful Stories
Surrounded by the richly patterned and colorful mandalas, children will hear two humorous stories from *The Wisdom of the Crows and Other Buddhist Tales* so simple that even young children will enjoy and understand their meaning. Children will then decorate a simple tea cup like one featured in one of the stories. For ages 3 to 5 years and accompanying adults. This program is free but a reservation is required by calling 404-727-0519.

Wednesday, February 22
7:30 PM, Level Three Galleries

Gallery Talk
Brendan Ozawa-de Silva, Associate Director for Buddhist Studies and Practice at Drepung Loseling Monastery, gives a gallery talk focusing on a sixteenth-century double-sided Tibetan Buddhist cosmological scroll in the exhibition.

Sunday, February 26
Noon–5 PM, Reception Hall

Urban Mandala™
Kimberly Carmody from Urban River Arts in New York and museum volunteers will be on hand to help participants of all ages create a giant mandala from natural and recyclable materials. Visitors will help create the mandala design by using a large-scale compass, a string, and a piece of chalk. Then visitors will create the colors and textures of the mandala by filling the sections with found and repurposed materials. Once it is finished, participants will participate in a dismantling ceremony where they may take, reuse, or recycle the materials. This event is co-sponsored by the Emory Office of Sustainability Initiatives.

Wednesday, February 29
7:30 PM, Reception Hall

Conversation
Rob Walker is the former *Consumed* columnist for the *New York Times Magazine*, the author of *Buying In: The Secret Dialogue Between What We Buy and Who We Are*, and the founder of The Unconsumption Project. In an informal conversation, Mr. Walker and Bobbi Patterson of Emory’s Department of Religion, will discuss one of the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism—that suffering is caused by desire—and the complexity of navigating a culture in which “desire” is manufactured by product designers and advertising agencies, and driven by our own consumerism.

The most trenchant psychoanalyst of our consumer selves is Rob Walker. Buying In is a fresh and fascinating exploration of the places where material culture and identity intersect.

—Michael Pollan

This program is co-sponsored by Emory’s Office of Sustainability Initiatives.

Sunday, March 4
2–4 PM, Reception Hall

Making Momos
Learn to make momos, traditional Tibetan steamed dumplings, with members of Atlanta’s Tibetan community. The event is free but space is limited and a reservation is required by calling 404-727-6118.

Tuesday, March 6
4 PM, Reception Hall

AntiquiTEA
Enjoy traditional Dharamsala ginger tea as Geshe Dadul Namgyal discusses a rice mandala in the exhibition and the “offering of the universe” for which it is used.

Monday, March 26–Saturday, March 31
Emory University’s Twelfth Annual Tibet Week

Visit www.tibet.emory.edu for a complete schedule of the week’s events.

Tuesday, April 3
7:30 PM, Reception Hall

Panel Discussion
The Emory University Religious Life Scholars, Brendan Ozawa-de Silva, Harshita Mruthinti Kamath, Isam Vaid, and Michael Karlin, discuss the various roles the body plays in the religious practices of Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and Hinduism.

Monday, April 9
7:30 PM, Board Room

Carlos Reads Book Club
Deepika Bahri, Associate Professor of English, and Sara McClintock, Associate Professor of Religion, lead readers through Jamang Norbu’s *The Mandala of Sherlock Holmes*. Fee: \$20 for Museum members; \$30 for non-members and includes the cost of the book. Registration is required by calling 404-727-6118 or emailing ehornor@emory.edu.

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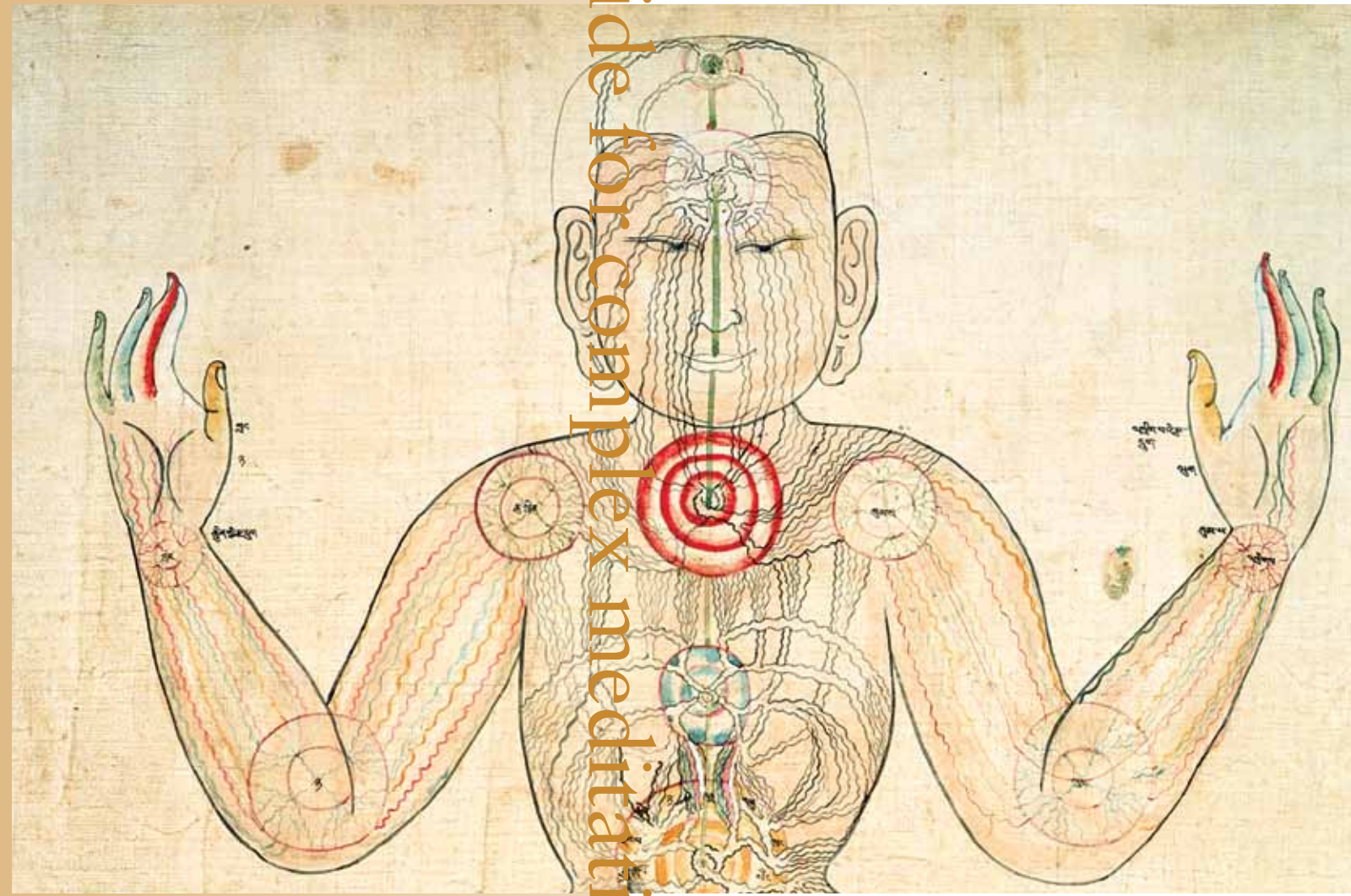
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Mandala

SACRED CIRCLE IN
TIBETAN BUDDHISM

JANUARY 21–APRIL 15, 2012

mandalas serve as a guide for complex meditation practices



Thursday, April 12
7:30 PM, Level Three Galleries

Gallery Talk
Geshe Lobsang Tenzin Negi, Director of the Emory-Tibet Partnership and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Religion, discusses a carved wooden mandala of Guhyasamaja, recently completed and on loan from the Gyuto Monastery in Dharamsala, India.

Sunday, April 15
5:30 PM, Level Three Galleries

Closing Ceremony for the Sand Mandala
An RSVP is required for this event by calling 404-727-6118. Space is limited.

ABOVE The Inner Kālacakra (detail). 16th century. Painted scroll. © Rubin Museum of Art, New York. C2009.9/HAR61200.

FRONT Mandala of Amoghapaśa. Tibet. 15th century. Pigment on cloth. © Rubin Museum of Art, New York. C2004.15.1/HAR65345.

The exhibition *Mandala: Sacred Circle in Tibetan Buddhism*, was organized by the Rubin Museum of Art, New York. The Michael C. Carlos Museum gratefully acknowledges the financial support of donors and the generosity of lenders who have made the Atlanta display of this exhibition possible.

DONORS
The Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation, The Emory-Tibet Partnership, Drepung Loseling Monastery, Inc.

LENDERS
American Museum of Natural History, New York; Susan L. Benningson; Ethnographic Museum of the University of Zurich; Gyuto Monastery, Dharamsala; Thomas Isenberg; Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas; Navin Kumar, New York; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Philadelphia Museum of Art; Zimmerman Family Collection; Oglethorpe University Museum of Art

OTHER MANDALA EVENTS ON CAMPUS AND IN THE CITY

January 21–April 15, 2012
Contemporary Mandala: New Audiences, New Forms

Emory University Visual Arts Gallery
700 Peavine Creek Drive
Atlanta, Georgia 30322
Planned in consultation with Jacquelynn Bass, author of *Smile of the Buddha: Eastern Philosophy and Western Art from Monet to Today*, this exhibit brings together artists who use the mandala form as artistic expression and as a tool for transformation.

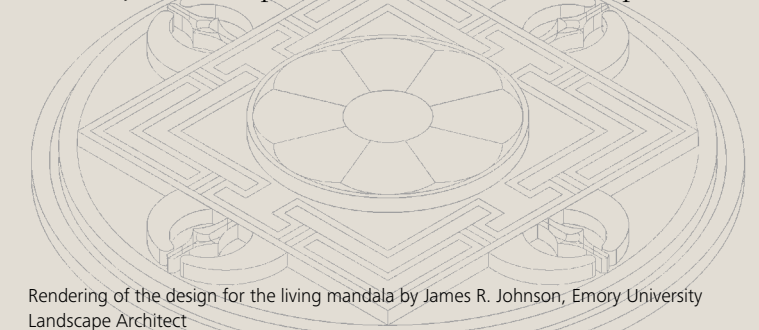
Contemporary visual artists search for new ways to address transformation and balance in our complex world. This exploration has taken many forms, from redrafting traditional visual depictions to use of new materials, to the performance body participating in the mandala form.

New York artist and Morehouse College alumnus Sanford Biggers will create a modern mandala in the center of the gallery, providing a performance space for music and dance.

Surrounding this performance space will be the works of artists Don Cooper, Faith McClure, Christopher McNulty, Andra Samelson, King Thackston, and Marcia Vaitsman. From transcendent abstracts to repetitive patterns, the paintings use the mandala and its residual power to address today’s physical, cultural, environmental, and cosmological issues. More information: 404-727-6315 or visualarts.emory.edu.

A Living Mandala

During the spring semester, a “living mandala” will be planted across from the Carlos Museum, in the Pitts Garden of Emory’s Cannon Chapel. Designed by Emory landscape architect James R. Johnson and Buddhist monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery and made from perennials with the help of Emory students, it will complement the exhibitions on campus.



Rendering of the design for the living mandala by James R. Johnson, Emory University Landscape Architect



Mandala of the B-Bodhisattva II, 2001. Sanford Biggers with David Ellis. Silkscreen on hand-carved colored rubber tiles, formica backing. 16ft x 16ft. Courtesy of the artists.

February 5–May 6, 2012

The Sacred Round: Mandalas by the Patients of Carl Jung
Oglethorpe University Museum of Art (OUMA)
4484 Peachtree Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30319

The Sacred Round: Mandalas by the Patients of Carl Jung features 40 original mandalas created by Jung’s patients during the course of their treatment between 1926 and 1945. Mandalas, meaning “circles” or “holy circles” in Sanskrit, were used during therapy to express both the conscious and unconscious. Viewers will learn about the creative analytical process and the symbols contained within the mandalas. Also on exhibit is a handmade book containing one patient’s dream descriptions and drawings, hailed as the feminine version of Jung’s famous *The Red Book*. This is the first-ever exhibition of a group of these mandalas by Jung’s patients and is courtesy of the Carl Jung Institute in Kusnacht, Switzerland. More information: 404-364-8555 or museum.oglethorpe.edu.

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