Mandala series embraces interdisciplinary arts

"Mandala: Sacred Circle in Tibetan Buddhism" at the Carlos Museum will feature this mandala of Buddha Amitayus from 19th century Tibet.

The "Contemporary Mandala" show at the Visual Arts Gallery includes a performance space created by artist Sanford Biggers.

The Mind's Eye is a photo exhibit of Tibetan monks painting sand mandalas at Emory during Tibet Week 2010.

By MARGIE FISHMAN

A perfect circle representing at once wholeness and infinity, the mandala straddles complex and sacred realms in Tibetan Buddhist tradition. This spring, a series of exhibitions, educational programs and hands-on activities on campus will examine the historical and religious significance of the mandala as it relates to current artistic and cultural practices.

Anchoring the spring activities is a Michael C. Carlos Museum special exhibition, "Mandala: Sacred Circle in Tibetan Buddhism," from Jan. 21 to April 15. For the first time in the Southeast, more than 100 masterworks will illuminate the mandala as a tool for meditating and achieving enlightenment. Visitors will be dazzled by mandalas conceived as concentric circles, lotus blossoms, starry and inverted, crossed triangles.

Among the objects on display will be a monumental, intricately-carved, three-dimensional mandala from the Gyuto Monastery in Dharamsala, India, which is being reassembled by local monks from Drepung Loseling Monastery. The Rubin Museum of Art in New York, which previously put on a similar exhibition, contributed many of the works to the Carlos exhibit, supplemented by works from private collections and from museums around the world.

"This exhibition has been the impetus for so much cross-disciplinary and university-wide arts programming," says Elizabeth Hornor, Marguerite Colville Ingram Director of Education for the Carlos Museum.

Coinciding with the dates of the Carlos exhibit, the Visual Arts Gallery will mount "Contemporary Mandala: New Audiences, New Forms." The exhibit will explore how contemporary artists address questions of transformation and balance in a multicultural society, using innovative materials to depict the mandala form. The centerpiece of the show is a dynamic performance space for visitors to interact with the mandala, created by New York artist and Morehouse College alumnus Sanford Biggers.

Through May 31, Cox Hall Computing Center will host "The Mind's Eye," a photo exhibit by Myron McGhee, a Pitts Theology Library staff member, presenting images of Tibetan monks painting sand mandalas during Emory's annual Tibet Week.

Tibet Week, scheduled for March 26 to 31 this year, is an outgrowth of the Emory-Tibet Partnership, which fosters dialogue between Western and Tibetan Buddhist traditions in science, philosophy, arts and culture.

Various mandala-related educational programs will be held at Emory, including a four-week Tibetan Buddhist compassion meditation class and an urban mandala arts activity co-sponsored by Emory's Office of Sustainability Initiatives, where participants will construct a giant mandala from natural and recyclable materials.

A separate living mandala made from perennial plants and flowers, created with the help of Emory students, is planned for the Pits Garden of Cannon Chapel.

Emory has already established itself as a leader in Tibetan Studies abroad with its highly successful spring and summer programs in Dharamsala. Shortly after His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama visited Emory in 2007, the University received a five-year grant from the Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation to expand on Emory's robust public programming and undergraduate teaching in Tibetan studies.

What to know about the tobacco-free policy

By ERIN LONG

Emory enters the new year by resolving to be a tobacco-free campus. As a national leader in higher education, health care and cancer prevention, Emory made the conscious decision to eliminate the use of tobacco campus-wide because of the associated health risks. Emory now joins more than 580 other U.S. colleges and universities and more than 2,800 hospitals and health care organizations that have adopted similar tobacco-free policies.

Healthcare properties, including Emory-sponsored events and personal vehicles on Emory property.

- **All tobacco types are prohibited.** The policy prohibits cigarettes, cigars, pipes, clove cigarettes, e-cigarettes, all forms of smokeless tobacco, and any other smoking devices that use tobacco such as hookahs.

- **Enforcement is everyone's responsibility.** All members of the Emory community have the responsibility to let others know about the tobacco-free policy. Be sure to treat people in a tobacco-free area, activity online at: https://tobaccofree.emory.edu.

- **Temporary smoking zone.** Until August, the zones located on Emory campuses where the policy does not apply. This grace period is planned to help students and others who wish to smoke during this time.

**Note:** \( \text{This information is subject to change.} \)
Mandala is a sacred circular design used in Tibetan Buddhism to symbolize the interdependence of all living things. The mandala is a spiritual and ritual tool used for inducing altered states of consciousness. It is a map of the cosmos, a spiritual tool used in many religious and meditative practices, especially in Buddhism and Hinduism. The mandala is often used in meditation and yoga practices to help the practitioner focus their energy and consciousness. It is a representation of the universe and is designed to help the practitioner experience a sense of wholeness and interconnectedness.

The mandala is a circular design made up of geometric shapes, symbols, and images that represent the different aspects of reality. It is a tool for understanding the nature of the universe and the self. The mandala is often used in meditation and yoga practices to help the practitioner focus their energy and consciousness. It is a representation of the universe and is designed to help the practitioner experience a sense of wholeness and interconnectedness.

SEASON PREVIEW

Eagles looking for national titles this spring

By JOHN FARINA

A number of Emory intercollegiate teams are preparing for what they hope will be successful seasons. Here are a few teams that are looking for another big campaign.

Softball

After finishing with an overall record of 11-4-1 last year, the second-highest win total in school history, head coach Penny Siqueiros and the Eagles look for another big campaign. Emory has experience and talent at every spot and promise to be a national title contender. Senior outfielder Jessica Thomas will be the team's top slugger after hitting .367 with 11 home runs en route to Second Team All-America acclaim a year ago. Senior pitcher Michelle Hull and sophomore Kaitlyn Cates will be the mainstays on a team-leading 411 and paces the team in runs scored and stolen bases.

Women's Tennis

A perennial power, the Emory women's tennis team, under the direction of head coach Amy Bryant, aims to bring home the coveted national title to Atlanta after registering a third-place effort last season. Sophomore Gabrielle Clark is a key returnee following a stellar freshman year that saw her earn ITA All-America honors in both singles and doubles as well as being named ITA NCAA Division III Rookie of the Year. Joining her will be veterans such as senior Zoella Dawson and junior Jordan Wylie, both All-Americans.