

**M**andala 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, Associate Professor in the Department of Religion at Emory University. 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 Wednesday–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,

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 Kālacakra deity in Yōbyum position with Viśvamatr. Tibet. 18th century. Distemper on cotton. © Rubin Museum of Art, New York. 67.821/HAR87223.



to the Dalai Lama teaching compassion toward Tibet’s Chinese 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 and reuse and 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](http://www.tibet.emory.edu) for a complete schedule of the week’s events.

**Monday, 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 role of the body in the practices of Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and Hinduism.

**Monday, April 9**  
7:30 PM, Board Room

**Carlos Reads Book Club**  
Deepiki 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 ehonor@emory.edu.

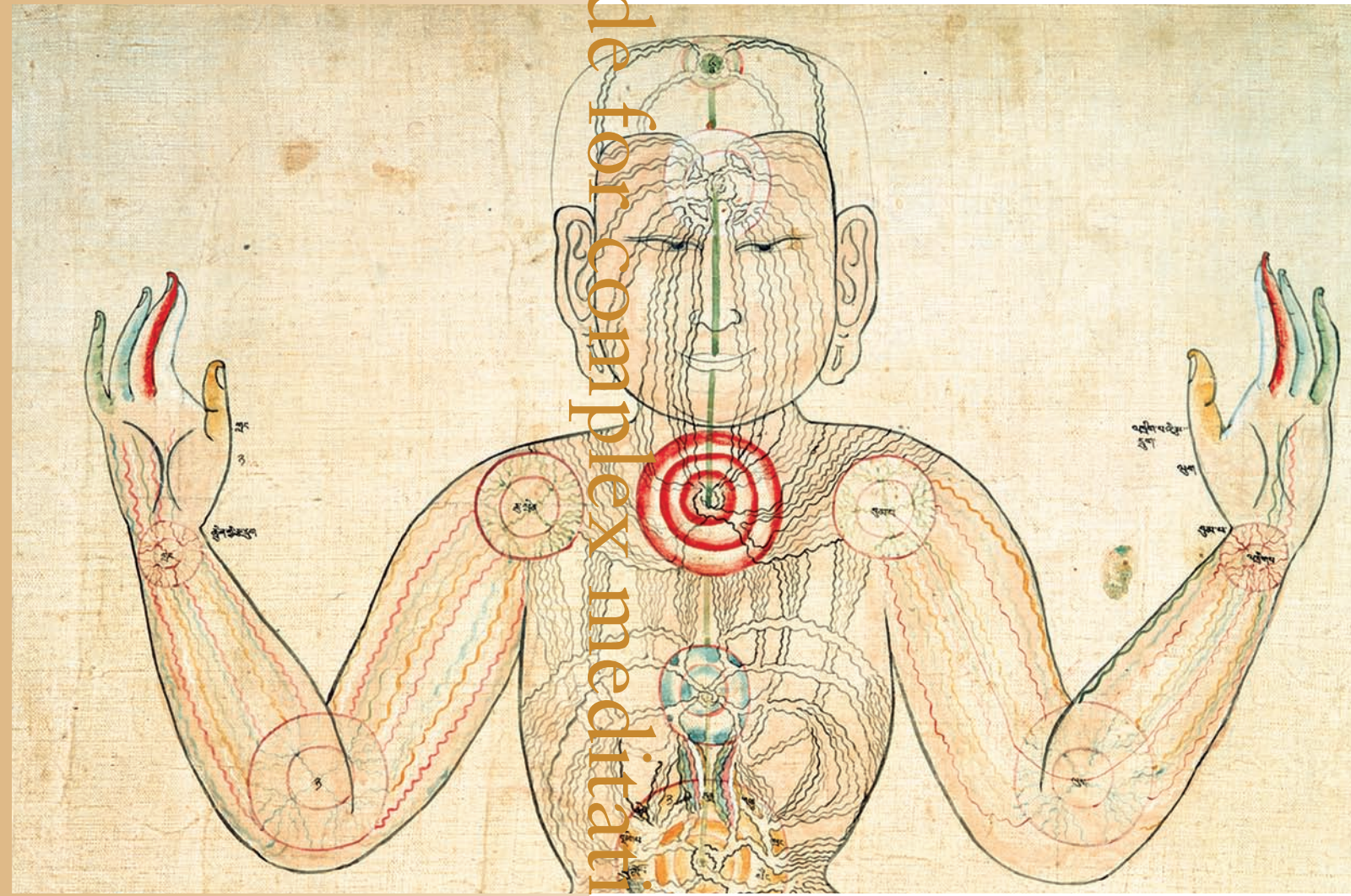
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# Mandala

SACRED CIRCLE IN  
TIBETAN BUDDHISM  
JANUARY 21–APRIL 15, 2012



**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 Gyupto 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 Amoghpaśa. Tibet. 15th century. Pigments 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.

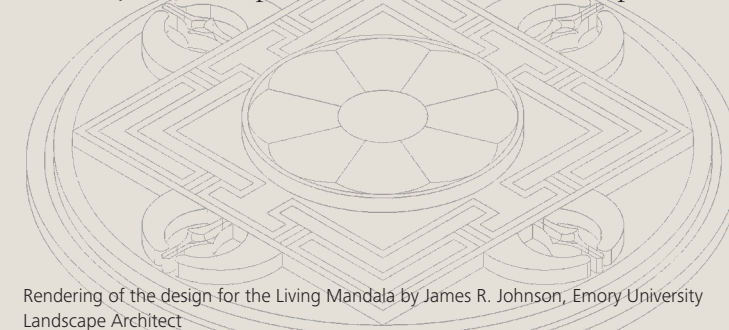
Contemporary visual artists search for new ways to address transformation and balance in our complex world. This exploration has taken many forms, from redrafting traditional visual depictions to use of new materials, to the performance body participating in the mandala form.

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](http://visualarts.emory.edu).

**A Living Mandala**

During the spring semester, a “living mandala” will be created across from the 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](http://museum.oglethorpe.edu).



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