

# RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***  
**January 2013**

***NEW INSTALLATION EXPLORES DIVERSITY OF ARTISTIC  
TRADITIONS IN HIMALAYAN ASIA THROUGH STUNNING WORKS  
FROM THE RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART COLLECTION***

***Masterworks: Jewels of the Collection***  
**On View February 6, 2013 – January 13, 2014**

New York—A new installation of masterworks representing the diversity of artistic achievements across the full arc of the Himalayas will open at the Rubin Museum on February 6, 2013. *Masterworks*, a regularly rotating exhibition at the Rubin, explores major strands in the development of Himalayan art, covering a period of over one thousand years, as well as some regional artistic traditions in their wider cultural, geographic, historical, and stylistic contexts. In this third iteration, the exhibition will thematically emphasize wrathful and protective deities. With all but two objects rotating, *Masterworks* gives access to old favorites and a considerable number of new acquisitions and gifts.

*Masterworks* is organized geographically, setting the diverse regional traditions of West Tibet, Central Tibet, East Tibet and Bhutan in relation to the neighboring areas of India, Kashmir, Nepal, China, and Mongolia. Highlights from the exhibition include a 12th century lotus mandala of Hevajra from Northeastern India, a historically extremely important drawing with the footprints of the founder of a major Tibetan Buddhist School predating 1217, a dated bilingual silk edict from the court of the 5th Dalai Lama, a contemporaneous portrait of this important Dalai Lama incarnation in gold on red

background, and a Chinese clay image of the guardian king Virupaksha. Dynamic wrathful deities range from the fifteenth-century snake-bodied personification of the eclipse, Rahula, to the extremely fierce Bhutanese representation of the protective goddess Dusolma.

Life-size facsimiles of an entire sequence of murals from the Lukhang, the Dalai Lamas' Secret Temple near the Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet, provide an exceptional opportunity for viewing Himalayan art at its most lavish and remain part of the *Masterworks* exhibition. The original 18<sup>th</sup> century wall paintings—inaccessible to the public until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century—uniquely depict the most esoteric of meditation and yoga practices in vivid color and detail. Created with new photographic methods by Thomas Laird and Clint Clemens, this display of large-format, high resolution pigment prints allows for even better access to the paintings than is possible in the temple itself. Their presentation at the Rubin marks the first showing in the world of prints created using this technology, and also provides the first ever opportunity outside Tibet to view life-size Tibetan murals in their relationship to portable art from the region.

Together with the museum's introductory exhibition *Gateway to Himalayan Art*, the installation provides visitors with different pathways for appreciating the art from this region and allows them to more deeply engage with the art on view throughout the museum's six floors of galleries. *Masterworks: Jewels of the Collection* serves as a vital reference point for the museum's diverse exhibitions—ranging from *Casting the Divine: Sculptures of the Nyingjei Lam Collection* to *The Place of Provenance: Regional Styles in Tibetan Painting*—which are all rooted in the fundamentals of Himalayan art.

### **About the Rubin Museum of Art**

The Rubin Museum creates an immersive environment for experiencing the art and culture of Himalayan Asia and develops programming that enables visitors to make personal connections to their contemporary lives. The only museum in the U.S. dedicated to the Himalayan region, the Rubin holds outstanding collections of Tibetan, Indian, Nepalese, Mongolian, and Bhutanese art, and provides a bridge to the cultures of the region. Dedicated to providing a multidimensional experience, the Rubin engages its visitors in a spectrum of exhibitions, dialogues, films, performances, and educational programs that explore Himalayan Asia through a range of artistic, cultural, religious, and traditional contexts and perspectives. Its intimate scale facilitates both

quiet contemplation and direct and active engagement. The Serai Café and shop are also inspired by the region's varied cultures and serve as an extension of the museum's gallery experience. For more information, including hours, visit [www.rmanyc.org](http://www.rmanyc.org).

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