

## PRESS RELEASE

## IN 2018, VISITORS FACE THE FUTURE AT THE RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART

*A year of exhibitions, programs, and experiences will heighten awareness about the nature of past, present, and future, and time's fluidity*

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-  Your future awaits: @RubinMuseum to tackle theme of the future in 2018 #RenewingTheNow
-  Do past, present, and future coexist? @RubinMuseum looks to #HimalayanArt to answer this question in 2018 #UnlockTime
-  The Rubin Museum invites you to catch a glimpse of the future as a state of mind in 2018 #HowBigIsYourNow

**New York, NY, October 5, 2017** — The Rubin Museum of Art will peer into “The Future,” with a yearlong exploration of this theme in its 2018 exhibitions, programs, and experiences. From scientific theories to Buddhist and Vedic philosophies, the Rubin Museum will delve into questions about the nature of time, along with how and why humans continue to be fascinated by the future. The 2018 theme was announced by Jorrit Britschgi, the Rubin’s newly appointed executive director, on October 5.

Humans are a prospective species conditioned to perceive time as flowing from the past through the present to the future. Most of what we do in our daily lives is aimed at the future — even if we think it is for the present. However, from Albert Einstein’s theory of relativity to Buddhist philosophies, many thinkers refute our everyday experience of linear time. In 2018, the Rubin Museum will bring together various provocative perspectives to illuminate the interrelated nature of past, present, and future.

“Art experiences are a powerful tool for grappling with the issues of our time. From past to present, humans have been facing the future, vacillating between hope and anxiety,” Britschgi said. “Next year the Rubin Museum will invite visitors to catch a glimpse of a different notion of the future and time. We ask: How do the timeless ideas expressed in Himalayan art help us understand and better cope with our contemporary predicaments and future uncertainties? Can we create the future by harnessing the power of the present moment?”

**Highlights of 2018 will include:**

## EXHIBITIONS, INSTALLATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

### **The Second Buddha: Master of Time (February 2, 2018 – January 7, 2019)**

Paintings, sculptures, augmented reality, and animations will illuminate the legacy of eighth-century Buddhist master Padmasambhava, who not only introduced Buddhism to Tibet, but is believed to have traversed time, leaving teachings for future discovery. The exhibition reveals Padmasambhava's influence; particularly, his magical ability to manipulate and shape the future through hidden teachings.

### **A Lost Future: Shezad Dawood, The Otolith Group, Matti Braun**

Featuring works by award-winning contemporary artists, this exhibition trilogy dissects layers of time and examines existing histories and future possibilities in Bengal. While works from these artists will be on view all year, the featured installation will rotate as follows:

- **February 23 – May 21, 2018:** Dawood's *Kalimpong*, which makes use of virtual reality technology to viscerally access multiple places and times, links a haunting nostalgic portal to a future alternative reality.
- **June 1 – September 17, 2018:** The work of The Otolith Group, which challenges scenarios of linear time, will include a forthcoming film concerning the history and potential future of Rabindranath Tagore's pioneering art school at Santiniketan.
- **October 5 – January 28, 2019:** Braun's *R.T. /S.R. /V.S.*, an otherworldly immersive visitor-centered experience, looks at a 1960s era notion of the future through a science fiction narrative of that time that is said to have inspired Spielberg's "E.T."

### **Sacred Spaces: The Road To... (November 17, 2017 – October 15, 2018)**

A series of sculptures by Ghiora Aharoni and mesmerizing videos by Arthur Liou focus on pilgrimage as a way to influence one's future self. The exhibition engages time as a medium and challenges viewers to consider the sacred and think about their own journeys.

### **Interventions by Chitra Ganesh (February 2, 2018 – January 7, 2019)**

Site-specific video animations by Ganesh will be activated and revealed by visitors within the Rubin's permanent collection. The works respond to images and stories of the Second Buddha (Padmasambhava) and the Future Buddha (Maitreya) and invite visitors to reflect on the meaning of the past and its relevance.

### **A Letter to a Future Visitor (February 2, 2018 – January 7, 2019)**

Transmission through time is made literal as visitors write letters to those who follow them. Incoming visitors will receive a letter from a past visitor that gives clues and cues on how to move through the Rubin Museum.

### **A Monument for the Anxious and Hopeful (February 10 – November 11, 2018)**

Candy Chang's interactive installation "A Monument for the Anxious and Hopeful" will welcome visitors in the museum lobby to contemplate and share their anxieties and hopes for the future on an outsized message board. Over the year, the visual will serve as a barometer of a shared state of mind.

## **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

The Rubin Museum's programs will be divided into seasons that highlight a particular facet of the future. In addition to these programs, the Rubin's ongoing series, such as Mindfulness Meditation, musical performances, and Family Sundays, will also take their cues from these themes.

### **If time is fluid... (February – April 2018)**

During the annual Brainwave series, which pairs mind scientists with experts from all walks of life, neuroscientist David Eagleman will curate a set of conversations, experiences and films that explore the fluency of time. He will make visitors wonder whether our perceptions are individual fabrications and whether memory can function as a prospective tool to anticipate the needs of the future. A series in partnership with Pentacle will feature dancers responding to artwork and ideas in the galleries. Losar Family Day honors the Tibetan New Year by bringing families together to develop aspirations for the year ahead.

### **If the future has a face...can we face it? (May – June 2018)**

Chitra Ganesh will curate a set of conversations and experiences, as well as films for Friday night Cabaret Cinema, to put a face on the future, drawing inspiration from a South Asian mythological and archetypal past to help forge, rather than just forecast, what may lie ahead. A performance series will feature works in progress by three performance artists with each confronting different aspects of femininity as they envision the possibility of a more diverse and inclusive future.

### **If dreams are prophecies... (July – September 2018)**

Dreams are not only tools for transmission but associated with prophetic meaning in many cultures. At the highly anticipated Rubin Dream-Over, visitors will sleep in front of a specially chosen piece of art, learn what their dreams have to say, and test the idea that dreams might be prophecies. The Rubin's 2018 Block Party will make dreams and prophecies come alive for visitors of any generation. Talks and experiences will explore other views on how dreams are more than they appear.

### **If the future is what we make it... (October – December 2018)**

The fall program series will help visitors understand two core Buddhist concepts that are often misunderstood: action (karma) and the expansive notion that all is connected (kriya). The series will explore the imprisonment that comes from habitual action, the possibility of changing the future with new actions, and the importance of human interconnection across time and space.

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

The Rubin Museum of Art is an arts oasis and cultural hub in New York City's vibrant Chelsea neighborhood that inspires visitors to make powerful connections between contemporary life and the art and ideas of the Himalayas, India, and neighboring regions. With a diverse array of thought-provoking exhibitions and programs—including films, concerts, and on-stage conversations—the Rubin provides immersive experiences that encourage personal discoveries and spark new ways of seeing the world. Emphasizing cross-cultural connections, the Rubin is a space to contemplate the big questions that extend across history and span human cultures.

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