

RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE FIRST U.S. PRESENTATION OF MORE THAN 100 SCULPTURES
FROM A PRIVATE COLLECTION OF INDIAN, NEPALESE, AND TIBETAN ART
FROM THE 7TH THROUGH THE 17TH CENTURY

CASTING THE DIVINE: SCULPTURES FROM THE NYINGJEI LAM COLLECTION
OPEN MARCH THROUGH FEBRUARY 2013

New York, NY – *Casting the Divine*, the first U.S. exhibition of works from the Nyingjei Lam Collection, will showcase a group of 104 sculptures depicting the Buddha, bodhisattvas, and rare Tantric deities from India, Nepal, and Tibet. On view from March 2 through February 11, 2013, at the Rubin Museum of Art, *Casting the Divine: Sculptures from the Nyingjei Lam Collection* highlights the development of specific aesthetics, styles, and iconography in Tibet and the surrounding regions as well as the masterful miniature metalwork and ornamentation of historical artists. Among the works, which are on long-term loan to the Rubin Museum, are important Indian and Nepalese bronzes from the 7th through the 12th century, which demonstrate regional influence on early Tibetan art.

“Loans of entire collections or groups of objects, such as the Nyingjei Lam Collection, offer unparalleled opportunities for the Rubin Museum to reexamine its own comprehensive collection of Himalayan art, discover new paths of inquiry, and develop programming that sheds new light on the tremendous breadth of artistic and historical output from Himalayan Asia,” says Patrick Sears, Deputy Director at the Rubin Museum of Art. *Casting the Divine* exemplifies the museum’s dedication to discovering the linkages and influences between the cultures of India, Tibet, and Nepal, and providing its audiences with new experiences with works of art from the region.”

Chief Curator, Jan Van Alphen added, "The Nyingjei Lam Collection abounds in high quality sculpture from the Himalayas and the regions immediately to the south of it. The details of these metal, stone, and bone sculptures are stunning, inlays in differently colored materials are frequent, and many of them are inscribed. These figures invite the viewer to look, enjoy, and compare."

The collection was assembled by an anonymous owner, who describes himself as a Roman Catholic of Irish-American origin, and who has spent most his life living in China. Nyingjei Lam, the title of the collection, means “path of compassion,” and the owner says he was compelled to begin collecting Buddhist art because of “the compassionate smiles that radiated from the faces of the many statues of Buddhas, bodhisattvas, saints, and lamas.” The complete collection comprises 107 sculptures from India, Nepal, and Tibet.

The exhibition includes figures in copper, bronze, stone, and other materials with inlays in silver, copper, precious stones, and fine details and inscriptions, dating from the 7th through the 17th century. Highlights from the exhibition include:

- 7th-century gilt copper seated male figure from the Swat Valley, Pakistan (L2005.9.2).
- 13th-century miniature gold seated figure of the Fifth Dalai Lama, Tibet (L2005.9.96)
- 14th-century, gilt bronze seated Green Tara inlaid with precious and semi-precious stones, Nepal (L2005.9.38)
- 11th-century silver Tantric adept figure, Tibet (L2005.9.30)
- 15th–16th-century silver Milarepa figure on a bronze base, Tibet (L2005.9.62)

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalog, *The Sculptural Heritage of Tibet: Buddhist Art in the Nyingjei Lam Collection*, by David Weldon and Jane Casey Singer. It was published in 1999 by Laurence King Publishing, an imprint of Calmann & King Ltd in conjunction with the presentation of a selection of works from the collection at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, in the United Kingdom, in the same year.

ABOUT THE RUBIN MUSEUM:

The Rubin Museum of Art provides an immersive environment for the exploration of Himalayan art and culture and its connections to contemporary life and ideas through innovative exhibitions, dynamic programs, and diverse educational opportunities. The only museum in the U.S. dedicated to Himalayan art, the museum holds one of the world’s most important collections of the paintings and sculptures of Tibet, Nepal, Mongolia, and Bhutan, and provides a bridge between the cultures of the region and other cultures worldwide. In addition to exhibitions, the Rubin’s programming encompasses dialogues, films, performances, and more, offering multiple entry-points for understanding and enjoying the art of the Himalayas. The shop and café at the Rubin are also inspired by the varied cultures of the region, completing the visitors’ experience. For more information, including hours and location, visit www.rmanyc.org.

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