

THE
RUBIN

MUSEUM
OF
ART

Press Release

June 10, 2022

**The Rubin Museum of Art Opens a Traveling ‘Mandala Lab’
in Bilbao, Expanding Global Programming**

BILBAO, SPAIN – The Rubin Museum of Art announces that a traveling version of their Mandala Lab – an interactive installation for social, and emotional learning – is now open in Bilbao, Spain.



The Rubin Museum of Art’s Mandala Lab, Bilbao 2022. Photo by Javier de Paz Garcia, courtesy of the Rubin Museum of Art.

The Mandala Lab debuted as a highlight of the inaugural [Wellbeing Summit for Social Change](#) (June 1–3), and will remain free and open to the public through June 17 in the Parque de Doña Casilda de Iturrizar – a 10-minute walk from the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao.

Installation images available [here](#).

Jorrit Britschgi, Director of the Rubin Museum of Art, said: “From Venice to Kathmandu and now Bilbao, 2022 has been an exciting year for our international programming. Our mission is to expand awareness and appreciation of Himalayan art and ideas well beyond our museum in New York City.”

Tim McHenry, Deputy Executive Director & Chief Programmatic Officer, said: “Taking inspiration from the traditional Buddhist art form, our Mandala Lab is an interactive environment that offers the visitor tools to confront and transform feelings of pride, attachment, envy, anger, and ignorance by way of sight, sound and smell. By making the visual visceral for visitors, they are unlikely to forget the lessons learned at the Lab, and so be better prepared for the increasing complexities of our time.”

The Rubin opened the first [Mandala Lab](#) in their New York City galleries in October 2021, as an experiential healing space that supports connection, empathy, and learning. The Lab invites visitors to participate in five thought-provoking and playful experiences, which aim to harness the power of difficult emotions and offer pathways to develop resilience, calmness, and connection.

The traveling version of the Mandala Lab further expands the Rubin Museum’s global programming, and demonstrates their commitment to expanding awareness of Himalayan art and ideas beyond their New York location.

Today’s announcement follows the Museum’s central role in organizing the [first-ever Nepal Pavilion](#) at the Venice Biennale (open through November 2022), and a recent [partnership with Itum Bahal monastery](#) in Kathmandu.

Following its installation in Spain, it is the Rubin Museum’s intention to keep the Mandala Lab traveling throughout out-door locations in Europe and beyond. The original Lab remains open in the Museum’s New York City galleries.

The traveling Mandala Lab was designed by the Rubin Museum in collaboration with Madrid-based architectural firm, EXTUDIO and design and production office ENORME STUDIO.

Notes to the Editor

ABOUT THE RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART

The Rubin Museum explores and celebrates the diversity of Himalayan art, ideas, and culture across history and into the present. With its globally renowned collection, the Rubin fosters understanding and appreciation of this extraordinary region by connecting its art and ideas to contemporary issues that are relevant in our visitors’ lives today. Largely inspired by the philosophical traditions of Buddhism and Hinduism, the Rubin offers innovative exhibitions and programs that examine provocative ideas across the arts and sciences. In doing so, the museum serves as a space for reflection and personal transformation, opening windows to inner worlds so visitors can better navigate outer ones. www.RubinMuseum.org

ABOUT THE WELLBEING SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

[The Wellbeing Project](#) presents its inaugural Wellbeing Summit for Social Change from 1 to 3 June 2022: a global event bringing together social change, governmental, art and business leaders from more than 60 countries and five continents working at the intersection of individual and collective wellbeing. The three-day summit will consist of ground-breaking talks, conversations and panel discussions highlighting the connections between individual, organizational and societal wellbeing. Attendees as well as the citizens of Bilbao-Biscay and surrounding communities will have access to an extensive array of exhibits, newly commissioned works of art and vibrant performing arts.

ABOUT EXTUDIO

EXTUDIO is a versatile architecture firm based in Madrid, Spain whose projects include individual and collective housing, commercial and work spaces, public venues and city infrastructures, and interior design. It was founded by Architect and Professor Néstor Montenegro, who was most recently awarded the 2018 International Architecture Award of the Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design, the 2017 American Architecture Prize for Residential Architecture, and the 2012 AIT Award. EXTUDIO has been awarded more than 30 architecture competitions, and their work has been published in leading publications such as El Croquis, Domus, 2G or A+U. Alongside the Mobile Mandala Lab for the Rubin Museum, EXTUDIO is developing the Library and Public Theater in Boadilla del Monte, and the Museum of Semana Santa in Zamora.

ABOUT ENORME STUDIO

ENORME STUDIO is headed by Rocío Pina and Carmelo Rodríguez. Their work on the Teruelzilla Leisure Center was selected by the Mies van der Rohe European Award and recognized as the Icon Award's Building of the Year 2012. They are recipients of the N.I.C.E. Award 2015 for solving the world's major challenges for the project Home Back Home; their Urban SPA was Landmark of the Year at the Next Landmark Awards; and their From Olympic Games to Urban Games won the People's Choice Award at the Sixty-nine-Seventy International Competition at Salt Lake City. Their work has been exhibited at Mostra Internazionale di Architettura de La Biennale di Venezia, Bienal de Arquitectura y Urbanismo Española, MOMA Museum of Modern Art, Oslo Architecture Triennale "After Belonging."

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