

PRESS RELEASE

THE RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART LAUNCHES
NEW ONLINE COLLECTION DATABASE

Images of nearly 400 objects are available online for the first time

New York, NY, July 16, 2020 — With a globally renowned collection of nearly 4,000 objects spanning more than 1,500 years from the Himalayan region, the **Rubin Museum of Art** launches a new and improved online collection database today. A total of 381 objects from the Rubin Museum’s permanent collection are now available at collection.rubinmuseum.org. This marks the first phase of an initiative to make the Rubin Museum collection accessible to visitors, students, teachers, and scholars alike around the world. More objects will be added continually, with the goal of eventually publishing the entire collection.

“This project showcases the Rubin Museum’s growing and concerted efforts to place Himalayan art at the center of global scholarship,” says **Executive Director Jorrit Britschgi**. “By providing access, accurate data about each object, and high quality images to the public and scholars, the database allows us to share the breadth and beauty of our collection from Tibet and the Himalayan mountain range that spans across Nepal, Bhutan, Mongolia, India, and beyond. This will become an important resource in the field of Himalayan art and I’m excited to share its launch.”

The database features 147 paintings, 112 sculptures, and 29 ritual objects such as offering bowls and prayer wheels. Other objects include furniture, prints and drawings, architectural elements, and manuscripts. These objects represent artworks that were on view in the galleries in the last three years as well as masterworks from the collection.

Researchers and explorers can sort through the artworks using 16 classifications, such as a sculpture, manuscript, or ritual object, as well as by origin, time period, keyword, and whether the object is on view in the Museum. Supplemental information, when available, also accompanies the objects. Additional features include the ability to share information and images through social media and email, as well as a “favorites” section where visitors can create and save artworks to their own collections to refer back to.

“Having a digital collections database has been a longtime goal, and I am so proud of the work that our team has been doing over the last year to initiate this project.

Prior to this launch, a number of artworks were available online but with very limited search capabilities. This new platform allows for more functionality and an easier point of entry for visitors looking to learn more about our collection. We look forward to expanding the database over the next few years with more objects being added monthly,” says **Director of Curatorial Administration and Collections Michelle Bennett Simorella**.

SUPPORT

The Year of Impermanence at the Rubin Museum is made possible by Bob and Lois Baylis, Fred Eychaner, Christopher J. Fussner, Agnes Gund, Matt and Ann Nimetz, Rasika and Girish Reddy, and Shelley and Donald Rubin.

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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

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