

For Immediate Release

## Masterworks from the Rubin Museum collection are on long-term loan at the Seattle Asian Art Museum

13 objects are on rotation in the Seattle Asian Art Museum's permanent collection galleries through 2031



New York, NY, May 28, 2026 – Objects from the Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art's collection are now on view at the Seattle Asian Art Museum as part of a five-year long-term loan partnership with the Seattle Art Museum (SAM). The Rubin objects are on display through 2031 in several galleries of *Boundless: Stories of Asian Art*, a permanent collection exhibition on view at the Seattle Asian Art Museum.

“With depictions of great patrons of the arts, mandalas, sacred landscapes, and personal ornamentation, the selection of objects from the Rubin deepens the Seattle Asian Art Museum's representation of Tibetan and Mongolian art, and helps tell a more complete story of Asian art. This is exactly what our collection sharing program—and the Rubin's new model as a global museum—is all about. I hope this five-year partnership is the start of a deep and enduring collaboration between our institutions,” says Karl Debreczeny, senior curator of the Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art.

The long-term loan consists of 13 masterworks from the Rubin Museum's collection made in Tibetan, Chinese, and Mongolian regions, including several paintings known as thangkas and a sculpture, illuminated manuscript, woodblock print, and headdress. Four to five objects will be on view at a time, with rotations once a year.

Object highlights include a large vibrant portrait of a Tibetan abbot who was a great patron of the arts; a hand-colored, six-foot-wide woodblock print on cloth that represents a panoramic view of the sacred site Mount Wutai; a near-life-size Tibetan parcel-gilt silver repoussé (hammered) sculptural portrait; paintings that are visual representations of the intermediate state as described in the Tibetan Book of the Dead; and a Mongolian woman's headdress made of silver, coral, and turquoise. One object will be on exhibit for the first time while at the Seattle Asian Art Museum.

The addition of the Rubin Museum objects enhances the Seattle Asian Art Museum's important collections of Asian art. Their galleries were fully reimaged in a major renovation and reinstallation that was unveiled in 2020 with the opening of *Boundless: Stories of Asian Art*, a permanent collection exhibition that moves away from the chronological and geographic organization of most museums. Instead objects are grouped across 12 themes to tell stories about Asia in a nonlinear narrative.

"This partnership between our institutions enables us to tell more complex visual histories of Asia," shares **FOONG Ping, SAM's Foster Foundation Curator of Chinese Art**. "I am also happy to be working with my longtime colleague and friend, Karl Debreczeny, whose deep expertise in Himalayan art adds nuance and a fresh perspective to the themes of worship and celebration, visual arts and literature, and clothing and identity explored in the Seattle Asian Art Museum galleries."

Sharing the Rubin Museum's collection and curatorial expertise is a central component of the Rubin's decentralized, global model. It enables more people in more places to learn about the art and cultures of the Himalayas, Tibetan Plateau, and Inner Asia, as well as the importance of these regions in the transmission of art, technology, and religious traditions in Asia. In 2026 the Rubin's collection sharing program includes long-term partnerships with the **Brooklyn Museum, Lehigh University Art Galleries, Worcester Museum of Art, McMullen Museum of Art, Oglethorpe University Museum of Art, and Allen Memorial Art Museum**.

"Our partnership with the Seattle Asian Art Museum is an important part of a growing number of Rubin projects that aim to provide more awareness of and access to the art of Tibetan, Himalayan, and related Inner Asian cultural regions," says Jorrit Britschgi, executive director of the Rubin. "Both our institutions seek to inspire and educate through our work and invite the public to create meaningful connections to the art of Asia. We're excited to do this work with the Seattle Asian Art Museum for audiences in the greater Seattle region."

The Rubin's global model also includes traveling exhibitions such as *Gateway to Himalayan Art*, which is touring across the United States and currently on view at its seventh venue at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art in Eugene, Oregon; online educational initiatives for undergraduate faculty and students such as Project Himalayan Art; opportunities for artists and scholars through an annual grant program and art prize; Mandala Lab curriculum lessons taught in New York City classrooms; and multimedia projects such as videos, podcasts, and a magazine that expand people's understanding of Himalayan art and its insights.

### [About the Seattle Art Museum](#)

Seattle Art Museum (SAM) is the Pacific Northwest's largest cultural institution across three sites: the Seattle Art Museum downtown; the Seattle Asian Art Museum in historic Volunteer Park; and the Olympic Sculpture Park, a free nine-acre waterfront park.

SAM's global collection includes nearly 25,000 works spanning centuries and cultures, with strengths in Asian art, Native American art, African and Oceanic art, and modern and contemporary art. SAM is building on this foundation to reimagine what museums can be. Through immersive exhibitions, innovative public programs, and community partnerships, SAM creates opportunities for people to connect with art, ideas, and one another in Seattle and beyond.

Learn more at [seattleartmuseum.org](http://seattleartmuseum.org) and follow @seattleartmuseum on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube.

### About the Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art

The Rubin is a global museum dedicated to presenting Himalayan art and its insights. Founded in 2004, the Rubin serves people internationally through exhibitions, participatory experiences, a dynamic digital platform, and partnerships. Inspired and informed by Himalayan art, the Rubin invites people to contemplate the human experience and deepen connections with the world around them in order to expand awareness, enhance well-being, and cultivate compassion. The Rubin advances scholarship through a series of educational initiatives, grants, collection sharing, and the stewardship of a collection of nearly 4,000 Himalayan art objects spanning 1,500 years of history—providing unprecedented access and resources to scholars, artists, and students across the globe. [rubinmuseum.org](http://rubinmuseum.org)

### Support

The Rubin Museum's programs are made possible by generous donations from the Museum's Board of Trustees, individual donors, corporate and foundation support, and Friends of the Rubin.

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Image credits:

Left: Panoramic Map of Mount Wutai, 1846; woodblock print on linen, hand colored; Monk Lhundrub, engraver of Sanggai Aimag (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia); Cifu Temple, Mount Wutai, China; Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art, Gift of Deborah Ashencaen, C2004.29.1

Right: Chahar Mongolian headdress, late 19th century; silver, coral, turquoise, and other semi-precious stones; Inner Mongolia; Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art, Gift of Shelley and Donald Rubin, C2012.7.23a-c