

For Immediate Release

## Nepalese artist Amrit Karki will present new work commissioned by the Rubin at the 2026 *sā* Ladakh Biennale, the World's Highest Regenerative Art Biennale, August 1–10

The Rubin embarks on a five-year partnership with *sā* Ladakh Biennale, supporting the development of new work at three biennales in 2026, 2028, and 2030.



Left: Amrit Karki, photo by Aseem Banstola, courtesy of the artist. Right: Disko Valley Bike Park, Leh, Ladakh, photo by Rahul Gautam

**New York, NY, April 24, 2026** – The Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art is pleased to announce its participation as an art partner at the 2026 *sā* Ladakh Biennale, supporting the creation of new work by Nepalese artist **Amrit Karki**. This begins a five-year partnership between the Rubin and *sā* Ladakh Biennale and demonstrates the Rubin's ongoing commitment to supporting living artists and commissioning new work.

Running August 1 to 10, the 2026 [sā Ladakh Biennale](#) takes place across the lived landscapes of Ladakh, India, unfolding at an altitude of above 3,000 meters along the approximately 210 kilometer-long Leh-Kargil corridor, one of the most visually stunning and historically profound areas in India. Conceived as a non-white cube biennale, *sā* Ladakh Biennale presents contemporary artworks and practices that emphasize zero-to-minimal-footprint within ecological, cultural, and social terrains, engaging villages, learning spaces, and open geography across the region.

Amrit Karki (b. 1990) is one of 24 artists participating in this year's edition and the first artist from Nepal to join the Biennale. Following a month-long residency in Ladakh in July, Karki will develop new work in dialogue with the terrain to be presented at the Biennale. Both a visual

and performing artist, Karki lives and works in Pokhara, Nepal, and has achieved international recognition for his thought-provoking and often durational works that interrogate the bridge between the ephemeral and the eternal and the formulation of the formless. In 2024, he created a five-day performance, *What You Have Given Me, I Set Free Forever*, at Nepal Art Council gallery, commissioned by the Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art as part of the exhibition *Reimagine: Himalayan Art Now* and made possible through the Marina Abramović Institute.

“I am honored to be present at sã Ladakh Biennale and bring echoes from one Himalayan culture to another,” says **artist Amrit Karki**. “Nepal and Ladakh share deep roots in spirituality and mythology, and there is a resonance in how we shape our environments while being shaped by it. At a time when Himalayan cultures and the environment are facing unprecedented threats, I hope to suggest our collective creativity as a hopeful path forward. I am excited to meet artists from Ladakh and from around the world to work together toward celebrating the spiritual landscape and its inhabitants.”

“I am thrilled to be working once again with Amrit Karki through our partnership with sã Ladakh Biennale,” says **Michelle Bennett Simorella, Rubin Museum Director of Global Projects and Collections**. “Karki’s work explores the things that exist but are not always as visible or as apparent in how they first appear. He has a curiosity for what lies beyond our reality and the uncertainty that shapes our human experience. The ideas that he grapples with through his work are a natural fit for sã Ladakh Biennale, whose mission is to explore land, memory, climate, and lived experience.”

This year’s Biennale, curated by Vishal K Dar with Tsering Motup, is themed *Signals from Another Star* and brings together artists from Ladakh and around the world to foster meaningful exchange between local knowledge systems and global contemporary practices. The Biennale foregrounds regeneration, learning, and ethical engagement, inviting artists and audiences to attune themselves to the frequencies of land, memory, climate, and lived experience.

Artists participating in the sã Ladakh Biennale 2026 include Zahara Batool, Avantika Bawa, Shupiwe Chongwe, Hylozoic/Desires (Himali Singh Soin and David Soin Tappeser), Tundup Dorjay, Chemat Dorjey, Amrit Karki, Studio Eidola (Jonas Kissling and Denizay Apusoglu), Tom Müller, Stanzin Samphel, Stanzin Tsepel, Stanzin Wangail, and Urgain Zawa. Additionally, artists participating under special projects at the sã Ladakh Biennale 2026 include Jigmet Angmo, Ayan Biswas, Anna Jermolaewa, Jitish Kallat, Peter Kogler, Agnieszka Kurant, Tashi Namgial, Tenzin Olden, Skarma Sonam Tashi, Grazia Toderi, and Arunima Dazess Wangchuk.

A central component of the Rubin’s transformation into a decentralized, global museum has been the expansion of support and resources for living artists and scholars, including the formation of an annual Rubin Museum Himalayan Art Prize and grant program. The Rubin’s new model also includes traveling exhibitions such as *Gateway to Himalayan Art*, which is touring across the United States; multimedia educational initiatives like Project Himalayan Art; Mandala Lab curriculum lessons taught in New York City classrooms; and long-term loans and collaborations that expand access to Himalayan art, such as the Rubin Museum Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room at the Brooklyn Museum.

This partnership with the sã Ladakh Biennale reflects the Rubin’s ongoing commitment to strategic partnerships in the Himalayan region. This has included a partnership with the

Bhutan Foundation to promote cultural preservation and education in Bhutan at the Wangduechholing Palace and Cultural Center, as well as a collaboration with the Keshchandra Mahavihara Conservation Society, which led to the opening of the Itumbaha Museum in Kathmandu, Nepal.

“As a global museum, we work with a network of partners whose goals and values align with ours,” says **Rubin Museum Executive Director, Jorrit Britschgi**. “We are proud to embark on this long-term partnership with *sā* Ladakh Biennale. The projects we plan to support will engage local monasteries and communities, and pay homage to traditional knowledge whilst respecting the environment they unfold in through sustainable practices.”

“Our first collaboration with an American institution, the Rubin Museum, marks a significant moment for the Himalayan contemporary artscape,” says **Raki Nikahetiya, cofounder of *sā* Ladakh Biennale**. “While opening an important exchange between two geographies, it also enables slower, more meaningful forms of regional dialogue—crucial not only for exchange but for building a more connected and resilient local cultural ecosystem. As a first-of-its-kind initiative, it lays the foundation for an ongoing, multi-Biennale collaboration focused on sustained long-term impact in climate sensitive landscapes.”

#### [About Amrit Karki](#)

Amrit Karki is a visual and performing arts professional from Nepal who has achieved international recognition for his thought-provoking works that interrogate the bridge between the ephemeral and the eternal and the formulation of the formless. He was awarded the prestigious 2019–2020 UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institute of Asian Arts Scholarship by the South Asian Foundation (SAF) at the School of Visual Art and Design, Beaconhouse National University, Pakistan, and the 2020 Creative Young Artist Award in Nepal. His solo performance exhibitions include *Breathing Through the Stillness* (2022) at Nepal Art Council and *Undefined* (2021) at Beaconhouse University Gallery, Lahore, Pakistan. He created a five-day performance, *What You Have Given Me, I Set Free Forever* (2024), at Nepal Art Council gallery, commissioned by the Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art. The artist exhibited his work at the Anyang Public Art Project (APAP7) (2023) and Fantasy Island (2023) in South Korea, as well as the 2019 Islamabad International Art Festival, the 2018 Asian Art Biennale, Bangladesh, and the 2017 Kathmandu Triennale.

#### [About \*sā\* Ladakh Biennale](#)

*sā*, meaning soil in the Ladakhi language, is the world's highest regenerative art biennale unfolding above 3,000 meters, focusing on the theme of climate, culture, and community. It was cofounded in 2023 by Tenzin Jamyang, Raki Nikahetiya, and Sagardeep Singh in a festival-led format that brought together artists from Ladakh, across India, and around the world to engage with the serene, fragile, and vast landscape of Disko Valley.

Its second iteration was in 2024, and today it has evolved into a Biennale, envisioned as a long-term cultural initiative rooted in learning, collaboration, and regional partnerships, emphasizing ethical and equitable curation, zero-to-minimal-footprint artistic practices, and sustained engagement in one of the world's most ecologically sensitive regions.

*sā* Ladakh Biennale 2026 is developed through collaborations with a wide network of community partners, including Disko Valley Bike Park, Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation, Dolkhar, Roots Ladakh, Local Futures–Ladakh, Crashpad, People's Action Group of Inclusion

and Rights, Women’s Association of Ladakh, Roots Ladakh, and Unlock Hundurman–Museum of Memories.

International and cultural exchange partners include the German Embassy to India, Austrian Embassy to India, Austrian Cultural Forum, Embassy of Switzerland in India, the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, and Australian High Commission.

The Biennale also collaborates with art, knowledge, and outreach platforms, including Fremantle Biennale, Disability in Arts, Disadvantage in Art, Australia, Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art, Neekoe Foundation, Gujral Foundation, The Ford Family Foundation, Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, India Art Fair, Dharamshala International Film Festival, museum in progress, The Land Art Generator Initiative, Quiet Art Movement, Good Life X, STIR and Black Sheep Media House, collectively supporting a framework of ethical cultural practice, regional learning, and long-term engagement in Ladakh and beyond.

### [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 of Himalayan Art’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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