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TIBETAN BUDDHIST MONKS RETURN TO THE CROW COLLECTION OF ASIAN ART APRIL 19 – 26 *Monks Create Sand Mandala for Healing and Peace*

Dallas (April 8, 2014) –The Crow Collection of Asian Art welcomes the Tibetan Buddhist monks from Drepung Loseling Monastery for their annual residency at the museum Saturday, April 19, 2014 through Saturday, April 26, 2014. During their time in Dallas, the monks will spend up to eight hours a day working in the museum's Grand Gallery to create a tantric Buddhist *mandala* sand painting, one painstakingly placed grain of sand at a time.

Of all the artistic traditions of Tantric Buddhism, painting with colored sand ranks as one of the most unique and exquisite. To form an image of a mandala—a *Sanskrit* word meaning sacred cosmogram—millions of grains of sand are carefully laid into place on a flat platform over a period of days or weeks. Over their week-long residency, the monks will create the Medicine Buddha *mandala* of healing and peace, and visitors are invited to watch as the monks build this ritual artwork by hand.

Visitors are welcome to view the creation of the *mandala* in the Grand Gallery Sunday 12 – 6 p.m., Tuesday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m.- 5 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. A Community *mandala* will allow visitors to try their hand at creating a *mandala* in the new art space located adjacent to the Lotus Shop, 2112 Flora St. Dallas, TX 75201.

In addition to *mandala* sand painting, the monks will lead a special meditation and spend time with members and visitors in the galleries. They will also attend a FC Dallas soccer match and throw out the first pitch at a Frisco RoughRiders baseball game.

Traditionally, most sand *mandalas* are destroyed shortly after their completion to symbolize the impermanence of existence. The colored sands are swept up and placed in an urn; half is distributed to the audience at the closing ceremony, while the remainder is carried to a nearby river or stream where the waters will carry the healing energies throughout the world. The closing ceremony this year will be held at the Crow Collection of Asian Art on Saturday, April 26, at 3:00 p.m. The opening ceremony is Saturday, April 19, at 3:00 p.m. and will also take place at the Crow Collection of Asian Art. Seating is limited and reservations are required. Tickets are \$15 for members for the opening and closing ceremony and \$30 for guests. For more information and/or to purchase tickets and make reservations online, please visit crowcollection.org.

Schedule of Events

- Saturday, April 19 | 11am** *Join the monks as they take over Klyde Warren Park to play badminton, croquet, and Frisbee. This is a free event; no reservations required.*
- Saturday, April 19 | 3pm** *Opening Ceremony: Experience the beauty of this ancient ritual and blessing of the space as the monks prepare for the creation of the mandala. Purchase tickets online at crowcollection.org; \$15 for Friends of the Crow Collection, \$30 for the public.*
- Sunday, April 20 | 2pm** *Enjoy a relaxing hour of meditation led by our artists-in-residence. This is a free event at the Crow Collection; reservations are highly suggested.*
- Monday, April 21 | 7pm** *Watch the monks throw out the first pitch at the Rough Riders vs. San Antonio Missions baseball game! Purchase tickets online at ridersbaseball.com.*
- Wednesday, April 23 | 12:15pm** *Join the monks for complimentary tea and a conversation in the galleries. This is a free event at the Crow Collection; reservations are highly suggested.*
- Thursday, April 24 | 7pm** *Wellness Lecture at the Crow Collection. This is a free event; reservations are highly suggested.*
- Saturday, April 26 | 3pm** *Closing Ceremony: In a ceremony representing the impermanence of all that exists, the monks will dismantle the sand mandala. Purchase tickets online at crowcollection.org; \$15 for Friends of the Crow Collection, \$30 for the public.*

For press photos for the events, please visit crowcollection.org. From the homepage click on “Explore the Museum” and then go to “Press Room.”

About The Crow Collection of Asian Art

The Crow Collection of Asian Art features a variety of spaces and galleries with changing exhibitions of the arts of China, Japan, India, Korea and Southeast Asia drawn from cultures ancient and contemporary. Fifteen years in operation, this lovingly curated free museum offers a serene setting for quiet reflection in the heart of the Dallas Arts District.