

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY TIBETAN ART

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

The Museum of Contemporary Tibetan Art is under the umbrella of Tibet House Holland. In the board are included Mr. Tashi Norbu, executive and artistic director, Mr. Reindert Dooves, accountant, and Ms. Eleni Skitsa, manager. Mr Tashi Norbu is also an artist to the museum, representing the museum through artistic activities such as workshops, live painting performances, Tibetan Mantra performances, festival and events, held both in the Netherlands and internationally.

This annual report will hopefully shed light on the events of 2018, the second year since the founding of the museum. The board expresses its sincerest gratitude for another year of great developments, expression and cultural exchange.



OPENING MUSEUM NEW SPACE EVENT

In Rensenpark, Emmen, on the 24th March 2018, in the presence of two councilors of Emmen City Hall, the museum followers and the people of the city of emmen, the museum at once doubled its size by expanding to include another part of the former restaurant. The museum was now not only able to double its display size, it had also gained another storage facility and workshop space. This expansion will no doubt make visits to the museum even more pleasant and diverse, allowing visitors to fully immerse in the wonder that is contemporary Tibetan art.



LECTURES

From January 5th to 7th, there was a visit by Mrs. Nicole M. Crawford, curator from Wyoming University Museum who serves on the Board of the Association of Academic Museum and Galleries. Her aim was to visit and study the exhibitions at Museum of Contemporary Tibetan Art, before she flies back to India, Dharamsala, for her study on the Tibet Museum there. Ideas were exchanged and a lecture was given to the audience, sharing knowledge and experience about Galleries and Museums.

On the 19th April the internationally acclaimed artist Joseph Lawrence Vasile visited the Museum. He made a unique journey calling for world peace: Accompanied by the local people wherever he chooses to go, he created peace flags and gives lectures sending messages of peace and unity, across the globe. The flags that have made at the museum will go on a world trip and will later be exhibited in Myanmar, Thailand and Korea. The artist created a live piece of art of the map of The Netherlands, using traditional Burmese textiles with the logo of the Museum of Contemporary Tibetan Art. He had the great help of local volunteers from Emmen. A map which is made under his instructions and donated to the Museum, shows each time the country he visits for this purpose.

On 5th July, the museum organized a gathering with our guest Lecturer who visited us for a second time: Mrs. Nicole Drake Crawford, on the subject of 'How to run a successful art Gallery, museum and art space'.

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY TIBETAN ART TASHI NORBU

On the 19th Tashi Norbu and Team travelled to the capital of Czech Republic, Brno, in order to participate and represent the Museum "In the Co camera Cestovzatelském" Festival. Motivated by the big clock, a Landmark sculpture at the main square of the city, the artist at his Live Painting Performance depicted an image suggesting a Tibetan Buddhist Stupa, the Pillars of Tibet, as well as the Shiva Lingam, a symbol of fertility in Indian culture. A piece of Art accepted with enthusiasm by the people of the city, who learned about the museum and its message to the world.

On the 24th Tashi Norbu and Team visited Leitomisch (85 km east of Prague) in the Czech Republic. The mayor of the town invited the Museum representative to the "Smetanova Litomyšl" Festival of next year, for a live painting performance and exhibition of the Museum Art Gallery. The Festival would be held at the Chateau of Leitonisch which is A UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Artist was honored to participate at this festival of the historical town; Its art is attended by 30,000 people annually. An exhibition which would start in June and it would stay there until the end of touristic season on September.

WORKSHOPS AND TUTORIALS

18th March, Tashi Norbu as a representative of the museum, gave a workshop on the subject of contemporary Tibetan art at the De Koningin in Hilversum, along with students who would then depict these Buddhas on canvas. All 25 participants were following Artist's advices and instructions and they ended up creating their own Buddhas, surrounded by Tibetan iconography like mandalas, angels and flying monks.

5th May a workshop was held at the Museum on "how to create a Buddha".

15th July. Workshop by Tashi Norbu and the Museum Team at the Medical Centre of Bilthoven, "Create your Own Buddha"

In addition, the foundation of rescuing animals hosted an afternoon of painting and soothing mantras for the abandoned animals. Museum Team gave this workshop to show care for the rescuing of animals.

5th August, Tibetan Contemporary Art Workshop at the Museum of Contemporary Tibetan Art in Emmen, a workshop was hosted on the subject of how to create a Painting of a Buddha according to the principles of ancient Tibetan iconometry.

16 – 17 September. PARTICIPATION OF THE MUSEUM AT H.H. 14TH DALAI LAMA OF TIBET TEACHINGS IN ROTTERDAM Tashi Norbu and Team drove to Rotterdam in order to make the installations for the Tibetan Contemporary Art Exhibition in Ahoy where H.H. Dalai Lama gave teachings. The presence of Museum of Contemporary Tibetan Art - Tashi Norbu was at the stalls 31,32 & 33.

Contemporary Tibetan Artworks were exhibited. Posters out of HH Dalai Lama original paintings were on sale to the public, in order to support our Tibetan Museum in Emmen. Because of His Holiness presence during these two days, we believed that all paintings and statues were blessed. Tashi made a live painting performance accompanied by the Musicians Christy Von Beansprout, Xavier Boot and the rest of Tibetan Team by the Tibetan Mantra Lounge.

FESTIVALS/EVENTS

24 March, Tashi Norbu paints the museum ideogram; A Buddha surrounded by Tibetan Calligraphy. The Music Lounge Team recites and plays the Tibetan Mantra Om Mani Padme Hum.

7th and 8th April, Tashi Norbu participated in the festival of “De Broodfabriek”, in Holland. As usually, Tashi started with his Tibetan Buddhist rituals and his live painting performance was accompanied all the way by the flute player Michael Telapary. The Artist depicted the Medicine Buddha image. In the Festival the Artist created together with his Team, in a traditional way, a sand mandala which would traditionally be destroyed when completed. Viewers and audience at the end collect a little bag with sand from the Mandala to take home. In Tibetan culture this is said to bring prosperity and good luck to the owner.

29th April: The museum participated in the project “Emmen goes Eco”. Tashi Norbu created a sculpture in Rensenspark, made of recycled wood. This is another Urban Buddha following the one which was created in Chicago in 2016. An Artwork that talks about Environmental Awareness, made at the festival “Emmen goes Eco” using scrap woods and waste materials was used to build such a peaceful image in the nature of Rensenspark, Holland, in an effort to send messages across the globe about ecological balance.

The sculpture was carried to a spot in the Rensenspark, where it stood for six months, presenting to the world a great example of environmental awareness.

The Museum participated in the Color Festival event with its giant Banners. Tashi Norbu gave a live Painting Performance presenting a Tibetan Landscape with Buddhas in a meditative posture.

29th July Tibetan artist Tashi Norbu gives a live Painting Performance while reciting Tibetan mantras at the Museum, accompanied by classical musicians.

In August theater Hofpoort exhibited a number of museum pieces. There was also a live painting performance by the artist during the event, who created a contemporary Tibetan painting. The invited classical European Musicians for this event were Harpist Ms Diana Saraswati de Vries, Mr Xavier Boot as pianist, Ms. Christy Von Beansprout as percussionist and vocals in combination with tibetan mantras and visuals by the performer "Tibetan Buddhist Monk" Mr. Azer Cirttan. There was a surprising contemporary dance inspired by the Ancient Buddhist sculptures of Ajanta and Allora Caves from India.

The museum participated in the Uitmarkt festival. On this occasion, museum artworks were recreated in beautiful and highly sophisticated embroidered paintings, by the Embroidery School of Shanghai and Beijing. Aspiring textile and fashion designers visited the Museum during the festival in Renssenpark, Emmen. They are Ms Jiansu, owner of the Embroidery School of Shanghai and Ms Liu Zixuan. Ms Jiansu is specialized in combining traditional and contemporary embroidery techniques. She uses her needles to explore a dizzying variety of themes, exploring gender, ethnic identity, cultural history, memory, and pop culture and creating a dialogue between Tibetan and Western culture or between Chinese and Western culture.

30th September: At the Eye Film museum during the Buddhist Film Festival Europe a short documentary film based on Tashi's live painting performance was shown: "Light For Freedom" a short documentary film shot in Toronto with its premier in the Netherlands. The artist was present for Q & A session after the film and that the closing ceremony of the Buddhist Film festival of that Weekend.

Two Artists from France, Ms Louise Burnet Munoz and Ms. Valérie Rbr Lebeau presented a symbolic piece of art. Louise burnet created the "Nowdays Christ" in our museum, a collage of modern images and Tibetan scriptures; while Luise presented her Buddha with pride on a beautiful brocade, using applique, cords and embroidery. Their work speaks to the world about morality and universal principles. Ms Kay Gallerist came all the way from Hong Kong, as a representative of her team of artists. Kay studied Tashi Norbu's artworks exhibited in the Museum for further collaboration with Tashi. This museum aims to collaborate with both Western and Asian artists, but focuses especially on the Tibetan diaspora.

MUSEUM IN CO-OPERATION WITH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS: EAST MEETS WEST

Local Artists are demonstrating their work at the Museum of Contemporary Tibetan Art in Renssenpark. Examples are: Karin Siebring, who in collaboration with Tashi Norbu made the floor murals of the new space of the Museum. Karin also assisted in the building of the wooden Buddha sculpture. The statue of a ceramic Buddha by Petra Blom is also hosted at the Museum. Nikki Schippers created a unique piece of Art; a Buddha made out of the pages of Bible. Nikki is the creator of this meaningful artwork, while Tashi is the intellectual father of this piece.

6th - 7th - 8th September Tashi participated at the Renssenpark Park Festival with a Live Painting Performance and Tibetan Mantra Lounge.

On the 13th November Museum representative Tashi Norbu at San Diego made a "Plastic soup" Buddha construction out of waste collected from the Pacific Ocean. Many millions of plastic items are thrown away each day on planet. To reduce that waste and set an inspiring and creative example, Artist Tashi Norbu enlisted the help of the inhabitants of San Diego and under the support of the city hall, he created a stunning sculpture entirely of plastic waste, reclaimed from the ocean. The locals call it "plastic soup" It is created using all kind of plastic collected from the Pacific – an amount which, is nothing of course, in comparison with the total of plastic debris polluting the oceans today.

MUSEUM VISITORS

Museum visitors have been recorded manually by the Museum Receptionists, who note the daily visits of people. Since the Museum opening date 1st June 2016 until the end of 2018, over 70.000 visitors have been recorded.