

Press Release  
March 13, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Deep | Unknown: From Dunhuang to the Himalayas March 13 – March 23, 2019

**March 13 – March 23, Open to Public**  
**March 24 – May 12, By Appointment Only**

March 14 (Thursday) Opening reception: 6 – 8 pm  
March 16 (Saturday) Artist talk by Terris Temple: 2 – 3:30 pm  
Event RSVP: [info@wmingart.com](mailto:info@wmingart.com)

**Address:** Walter Arader Himalayan Art Gallery, 1016 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10075  
**Hours:** 10 am – 6 pm



Gade (b. 1971), *Group photo 2*, 2002, Ground mineral pigments on canvas, 50 x 50 inches (127 x 127 cm). Photo: W.MING

W. MING is honored to present “Deep|Unknown: From Dunhuang to the Himalayas,” a contemporary Himalayan art exhibition, at Walter Arader Himalayan Art Gallery (1016 Madison Avenue, New York). The show will be open to the public for Asia Week New York, from March 13th to 23rd, 2019, and will open to visitors by appointment after March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

This exhibition presents over 40 works by 20 outstanding artists living all around the globe (India, Nepal, Pakistan, Tibet, Shanghai, Beijing, USA, UK, France, Italy, etc.). The works on view, spanning three decades (1987-2018), are created with diverse media and demonstrate a wide range of subjects and styles. The multiple dimensions of this exhibition make it a unique one

among other similar group shows from recent years. By showcasing contemporary Himalayan art with Asia Week New York as our platform, we display how contemporary art and social culture in the Himalayas opens infinite possibilities of development for the region at large.

Many of the artists featured in this exhibition have received years of rigorous training in classical Thangka painting and have also been deeply influenced by western art. The sophistication of their painting techniques is fully expressed in their works, embodied in each line, each color, and each composition. Many of the works show a juxtaposition of traditional Buddhist art and contemporary Western art, both worlds beautifully merging with one another. Seemingly contradictory visual elements — history and modernity, religion and secularity, solemnity and humor — nonetheless come together on canvas in harmony. In contrast to the way traditional religious art presents sacred and mysterious themes, the works exhibited reveal to the audience the artists' critical thinking in a more delightful and affective way.

Such innovative style suggests the artists' willingness to tear off the stereotypical labels of traditional Himalayan art in an effort to break through the limitations of their own experience and cultural background. By expressing their inner feelings and telling their stories with courage, the artists convey a profound understanding of traditions and beliefs but do so in a personal, tangible, and quite refreshing manner. Each piece of art on display is an adventure, a revolution, an artist-written annotation of traditional culture.

The title of the exhibition is taken from a series of work with the same title "Deep and Unknown" (2014) by artist **Tulku Jamyang** (b. 1977, Nepal). In this series, comprised of 21 paintings, the artist depicts creatures living in the deep sea, symbolizing deeply hidden thoughts and sentiments. The artist specializes in creating art with incense burning, where every "brushwork" is in fact burning a tiny hole on rice paper with incense. Hundreds of thousands of holes, with exactly the same distance between one another, compose the entire art piece. When asked why he chose such a unique technique, the artist answered, "Fire means burning desire and also burning down the negative emotions. Rice paper is the mind for me. Burning on the rice paper, reminds me to have the desire to burn down the negative emotions of my mind." To the artist, each creation is an exploration of himself, a meditative practice.

**Gongkar Gyatso** (b.1961, Lhasa) is an important artist in the history of contemporary Tibetan art who also founded Sweet Tea House, a contemporary Tibetan art gallery in London. "Gongkar's method and style are not intended to be provocative or even irreverent; for the artist to combine the sacred image of the buddha with popular culture is his own way of making Buddhism more accessible to everyone" (Tibet. Art. Now. Tibetan Art between Tradition and Modernity, 2011, Italy). The artist's works have been shown at many major museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

**Gade** (b. 1971, Lhasa) is an avant-garde figure in contemporary art and also one of the founders who started the Tibetan contemporary art group "Gedun Choephel Artists' Guild." Gade has two works on view, *Large Portrait* (2001) and *Group photo 2* (2002), both incorporating traditional religious elements and American pop art. Despite the humorous style and delightful subjects, the paintings are deeply thought-provoking.

When asked about his *Instant Buddha* 2011, included in this show, artist **Tenzing Rigdol** (b. 1982, India) said, “In this painting I was contemplating the idea of our desires. How we desire to reach certain goals in an instant, whether it is wealth, knowledge or spiritual realization” ([Tibet. Art. Now. Tibetan Art between Tradition and Modernity](#), 2011, Italy). His Buddhist multi-media practice is made of diverse materials ranging from silk to lottery tickets. The striking visual impact signifies the primal material desire as well as the gap between reality and ideal. Artist’s artwork was the first work by a contemporary Tibetan artist to be acquired by the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

**Niu Ann** (b. 1968, Shanghai) is a female artist from mainland China whose inspirations stem from Buddhism. The artist is inspired by Dunhuang like most of mainland Chinese artists. Niu’s work, *Everywhere Series-The Contemporary Age* 2016, is about incarnation. She once stated, “This life is the most important moment in the entire life and is most worthy of praise. That is the inspiration of this piece.” Artist’s works has been collected by Blackstone Group, Singapore National Museum, HSBC private bank, etc.

This exhibition also includes four western artists, such as **Terries Temple** (b. 1944, USA) and **Leslie Nguyen Temple** (b. 1961, UK). Terries Temple started learning traditional Thangka painting in Nepal in 1966 and have involved in projects for Tsurphu Monastery for over 25 years. Starting from 1976, the artist began his flower and bird series, which was inspired by Hawaii where he lives and works. The artist uses mineral and botanical pigments to depict birds, flowers, and landscapes, applying painting techniques and methods that are derived from creating Tibetan Thangka painting. He hopes to call for people’s awareness and protection of endangered birds through the form of his art. Leslie Nguyen Temple creates abstract works by using silk appliques, that stretches the boundaries of technique to express themes spanning from traditional, environmental, to more recently multi-levelled abstracts. Her most recent contemporary works -silk abstract constructions echoing traditional forms offers a 3D fluid and transparent visual reflecting interdependence and stillness in motion.

The artists featured in this exhibition include: Tenzing Rigdol, Gonkar Gyatso, Gade, Tulku Jamyang, Sodhon, Rabkar Wangchuk, Tashi Norbu (b.1974), Tashi Norbu (b.1981), Tashi Phuntsok, Tenzin Norbu, Tsekal, Livia Liverani, Sherab Gyaltsen, Kesang Lamdark, Terris Temple, Leslie Nguyen Temple, Marie-Dolma Chopel, Tanya Minhas, Niu Ann, and Li Shuang. Among the Himalayan art collection that we are representing this time, including the ones shown in this exhibition, 12 pieces have been shown at *Transcending Tibet: Contemporary Tibetan Art Exhibition*, USA, 2015 and *Tibet. Art. Now. Tibetan Art between Tradition and Modernity*, Italy, 2011.

Partial sales proceeds will be donated to the Latse Library. Latse Library fosters appreciation for the origins and vitality of Tibetan culture. It is a venue for Tibetans, scholars, and other visitors from all over the world to share and explore the many facets of contemporary Tibetan culture.

This exhibition is produced by Xiaoming Zhang, organized by Yina Wang, and managed by Tia Xu.

# W.MING 蓮藝

\*Cited from catalog ASIA Onlus, Tibet. Art. Now. Tibetan Art between Tradition and Modernity, 2011, Italy.

## **W.MING**

W.MING is a private art advisory and consulting company founded in 2010 by Xiaoming Zhang. W.MING represents artists for exhibitions and sales, and provides private sales and art advisor services for private and institutional clients globally. The company specializes in international modern and contemporary art. W.MING has two office spaces, one in Beijing and the other in New York ([www.wmingart.com](http://www.wmingart.com)).

## **Press Inquiries**

Tia Xu: [tia.xu@wmingart.com](mailto:tia.xu@wmingart.com)

## **Sales Inquiries**

Xiaoming Zhang: +1 917 535 6286 (USA), +86 186 1883 3806 (China);  
[xiaoming.zhang@wmingart.com](mailto:xiaoming.zhang@wmingart.com); WeChat: 186 8883 3806  
Yina Wang: [yina.wang@wmingart.com](mailto:yina.wang@wmingart.com)