



A Tibetan Offering of Peace

presenting

TENZIN WANGCHUK



Artist's Statement

My work revolves around the traditional Tibetan art of sand painting and focuses upon my own vision, thoughts, and analysis, as well as the philosophy intrinsic to that art.

The tradition of sand painting is itself, based upon the philosophy of Tibetan Buddhism, which expresses the values of love, patience, compassion, and forgiveness.

As a practice, traditional sand painting is laborious, requiring that the sand itself be first ground by hand from solid blocks of marble. After being colored, the sand is painstakingly poured into intricate patterns to create complex compositions called Mandalas. Because of their complexity the Mandalas are often quite large, and much patience is required to complete each. Sand painting is usually done according to rituals that reinforce the values integral to Tibetan Buddhism.





While normally sand paintings (Mandalas) are temporary and ritually destroyed upon completion, I am presently experimenting with ways in which the sand paintings can be made more permanent.

In addition, my work also involves experimentation in combining traditional methods with more contemporary mediums, idioms and imagery from both Eastern

and Western Cultures. Presently there are no other artists of whom I am aware working in this transcultural /trans-medium manner specifically with sand painting.

My studio practice began with my experiences as a Buddhist Monk working for many years directly in the service of the Dalai Lama. However, I chose to leave the monastic life in order to share my work and philosophy with others. Much of my work ultimately reflects my own struggles with adjusting to the drastic changes that I have undergone in that transition from the monastic world to that of the layperson artist.

Another aspect of my work is the preservation of Tibetan Culture; a culture that is slowly being eradicated from my native land. As one of the few ancient cultures alive today, its eradication would be a great loss to the world. My goal is to bring that culture to the outside world while making a direct connection between the traditional and the new, and, to express those values that unite us as humans.



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