

THE
GRIFFIS ART CENTER

INTERNATIONAL ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE COLLECTION
NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT USA

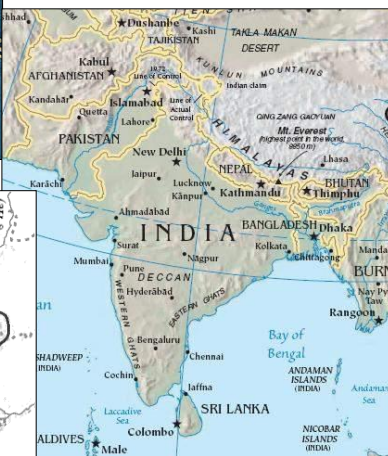
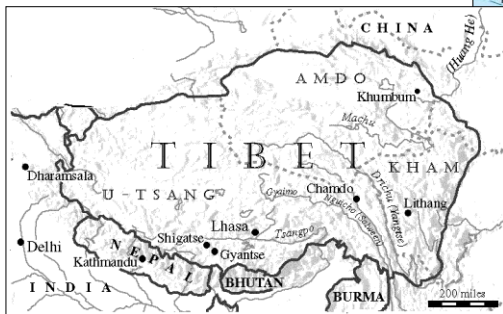
TENZIN WANGCHUK

2008 - 2009 Griffis Art Center's International Artist-in-Residence
Tibet / Dharamsala, India



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Tenzin Wangchuk is an artist who has contemporized the visions of the Tibetan masters to create an art that can speak to the masses. Derived from the traditional arts of sand painting and butter sculpture, he has found a methodology that incorporates those techniques in new ways. The auspicious symbols of Tibetan Buddhism are transformed as they are visualized into a new form. The artist begins with these images and focuses on their meaning for today. A lotus flower or a vajra is isolated or placed in a new context that lends itself to debate and interpretation. Easily vacillating between the Western techniques of Pastel, or using a chakpur with hand ground and colored marble, each image resonates with the essence of Tibetan culture. The small size of the works makes the image that much more precious and suddenly the viewer can theoretically hold a vajra or the lotus in their hand. Each sand painting is comprised of thousands of grains of sand that when combined create one image—a reminder that it is like the individuals of the world who when they come together can create a magnificent world of hope and promise.

Wangchuk's goal is to create an art that at once preserves the ancient culture of Tibet but also visualizes how it is relevant to today. He has been creating monumental sand paintings for a decade but these precious objects are the works that he kept for himself until now, when the world needs them the most.

Gail Gelburd, PhD
AICA Critic, 2009