

**2022**



# **Annual report 2022**

**Written by Eleni - Leela Skitsa**

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## 2022 - ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD

We are walking at the 7th year since the Museum of Contemporary Tibetan Art opened its doors to the public and was established in Emmen, The Netherlands, making it the first Museum of Contemporary Tibetan Art in Europe and worldwide.

During these years, Museum had to face the painful pandemic times but survived owing to our zest and enthusiasm to preserve the Tibetan culture. We have been serving the Tibetan Art and Culture, in an effort to transmit ideological concepts, bound by a goal, to preserve the imprints of Tibetan art and culture. By collecting, preserving, interpreting, displaying objects of artistic, and cultural significance, educating the public about Tibet, attracting interest, related to its voice, its land, its culture. Representing to the humanity a special culture and ensuring that its collection is housed in a safe way, enabling education, conservation, curation, research and exhibition.

With the aim to offer the best to our visitors, our great goal and aim as well, was to follow all 17 norms which act lawfully, in order to operate Museum of Contemporary Tibetan Art, in accordance with the best practice guidance as described at the Governance Cultural Code, the ICOM -International Council of Museums-, the Code of Ethics for Museums, the LAMO and the Heritage Act, the Diversity and Inclusion strategies at workplace and the WBT-the Management and Supervision of Legal Entities Act-, intending to improve the Management and Supervision of Legal Entities Act of the Foundation.

The Board looks back at year 2022. It was a year of ongoing, significant organizational and operational changes with the most important one of becoming a Registered Museum in The Netherlands, in October 2022. We are proud now of the way we responded and survived to the challenges of such turbulent years and reach the post covid times safe, with a great success as a Museum; becoming a Museum which is qualified to proceed further, implementing all terms and conditions of being a professional one. The Board members of the Foundation of THH know that success can only be achieved through commitments with Museum staff and volunteers and express their appreciation for the hard work, in a supportive environment. MoCTA is run by volunteers. MoCTA ensures that all our staff is well informed about Museum codes, policies and procedures; offering opportunities to be developed through Arts, workshops and educational programs not only at the Museum, but at the Platform Drentse Musea too. Our aim is to expand the circle of our Museum staff and Volunteers, creating challenges for them. Yearly, volunteers youngsters come through the Cherry Foundation. In 2022 we had 4 volunteers from this source while another 18 people from areas around Emmen, come to volunteer with us.

Two Board members (Marco Lier - President and Shilpa Samplonious – Raut – Treasurer, changed in the Board by the end of May 2022 and new Board members were formed by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022. The new Board is consisting of Ronald Klaar

(President) Leela Eleni Skitsa (Vice President), Anja de Jong (Treasurer) and Chantal Berrens (Secretary). There were six meetings of the Board in 2022. The Board receive no compensation for their support, and they contribute as volunteers.



## A registered Museum

October 2022. MoCTA became a Registered Museum. A pride and honour for the Tibetan world, as well as to all of us in the West. It is a fact that this Museum, the only one in Europe and the world, became a Registered Museum in the Netherlands.

The Museum is officially a source of study, research, and education of the Tibetan Cultural Heritage and Art. In support of its volunteering staff, for the sake of Tibet, The Artist Venerable Tashi Norbu the Founder of the Museum, contributed to its existence through his artistic creativity and inspirations; Leela Skitsa, Artist, Art Critic and Managing Director, was focused on its registration success; and the Museum met the high quality criteria of the International Code of Ethics for Museums. But mainly, it was our works, coming from the heart! A challenge to collect, upkeep, spread the Tibetan Art and Culture and present it to the public at local, regional, and international level. A commitment in life of HH Dalai Lama, on preserving the Tibetan culture and Heritage. With love for Tibet, its voice and existence, its land and culture.

The Museum of Contemporary Tibetan Art (MoCTA) was founded on June 1, 2017. It is part of the Tibet House Holland Foundation and under its umbrella.

The main goals of the Tibet House Netherlands Foundation is the Preservation and development of Tibetan culture and identity, the contribution and the development of Tibetan contemporary art and the collaboration with Tibetan contemporary artists living in exile. It is significant the collaboration between different artists inspired by Tibetan culture as well as the Tibetan Artists who live in Lhasa, Tibet. The Museum organizes exhibitions of Tibetan artists, in combination with Artists from the West influenced by the Tibetan culture.

The MoCTA was established to achieve its goals such as the Preservation and development of Tibetan culture and identity, to contribute to the development of Tibetan contemporary art, to make an effort to collaborate with Tibetan contemporary artists living in Tibet. To promote collaboration between different artists inspired by Tibetan culture, to organize exhibitions of Tibetan artists, possibly in combination with artists inspired by Tibet who live in the West.

As a registered Museum we meet the high quality criteria and the ICOM (International code of Ethics for Museums), -for settings standards for the practice of Museum professionals, recognizing the values shared by the international Museum Community-. Not all Museums in Holland and especially in the province of Drenthe are registered, but only 1/3 of them amongst which, is our Museum; we are proud of this success, owing to the Museum Manager (and Co-founder) Leela Skitsa 's and volunteers' enthusiasm, zest and love for Tibet and its cause! Now this Museum is fulfilling to the highest, our

goal of spreading and preserving the Tibetan culture across the globe. The registration was indeed a great challenge for us and such an encouragement to further contribute to the Tibetan cultural heritage, because we know that our knowledge, skills and activities are approved, ensuring the quality of our Museum.

## Operations

The operational costs of the Museum are covered by the Income of Artistic events, Commission on art sales through the Museum, Shop sales and Donations. We believe that the Museum expenses can be covered by the income of these activities in the coming years. The Covid-19 pandemic caused the Museum to close a few times early 2022. The number of visitors decreased to 1030 visitors for 2022

## Museum collection

Thangka paintings on display in the museum were and still are an important aspect of its Tibetan Heritage and Sense of Identity. The entire collection of the Museum, the mission statements, the purpose and the audience that the museum is in line with the World Heritage Committee's goal, of preserving the world cultural heritage, contributing to human civilization, development, tourism and economic growth.

Lama Tashi Norbu's art forms are also shown in the Museum collection, based on his many years experience in Western museums where he exhibited and discussed his art. It is very important that this Tibetan heritage and the exhibition on contemporary Tibetan art are preserved. Contemporary Tibetan art is derived from traditional Tibetan art. The modern Tibetan art introduces the public to Tibetan heritage existed before the Chinese occupation.

We updated our collection adding 25 pieces of Art of Tibetan Artists in Diaspora. We managed to have Tibet 3.0 Artworks prints from Tibetan Artists in Lhasa/Tibet. They are now exhibited in our Museum, supporting our permanent Art collection. These are in a form of "displate" The one of a kind artwork prints of the original, on a metal; a creation of 21<sup>st</sup> century canvas which become a study in our Museum. Demonstrating Tibetan landscapes, symbols and motives, portraits and symbolic themes derived by Tibetan Culture.

The museum and gallery are two different spaces in the building. However both, make an important contribution to the contemporary Tibetan Art. All Artworks and objects of the Museum collection and all new historical objects that come in, are registered. Gallery's pieces of Art are not involved with Museum collection. Shop collection is independent to Museum collection or Gallery collection.

*Therefore, there is a clear separation between the Museum space, the Museum Gallery and the Museum shop. All spaces -Museum, Gallery, shop-, are clearly declared, divided and oriented. Same fact occurs for the Museum collection, Gallery collection, Shop collection. No items are for sale in the Museum area collection.*

## **Covid in 2022 and impact on the museum**

2022 appears to be the first year in which the Museum was not preoccupied all the time with the pandemic. The impact of the pandemic was not so big, and the restrictions were gradually lifted. The positive impact of that, has been, that museum saw the return of visitors.

The visitor numbers for our museum was still recovering however nearly to the middle of the year, and was still marked by the impact from the pandemic but not to the extend that was at years 2020 – 2021. Visitors were under appointment and situation became better by middle 2022.

The museum continued with the exhibition “East Meets West”. The number of visitors were decreased to 1030 visitors and the planned exhibition did not also receive the visitor attention it deserved.

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## **MoCTA & Activities in Rensenpark**

Our aim to preserve the Tibetan Art and culture, does not reflect the past only, but the present and future. And here we do create a heritage by adding new ideas to old ideals; involving continual creation and transformation and that is what we presented at our Museum of Contemporary Tibetan Art in 2022 whenever an opportunity was given.

With reference to the Rensenpark area, where our Museum is located, earlier in the year, there was an important meeting about Rensenpark affairs with cultural entrepreneurs and representatives of the municipality and the new Park Director. Focused on a better communication, talked about an evaluation of future policy of the Rensenpark events. The common goal of all participants was to work together for a beautiful park full of cultural activities.

At this point, the Museum people belief is, that the “China light Festival” wasn’t the best presentation in the Rensenpark where our Museum is located. Arising thoughts and queries about the known Tibet and China connection through years.

The decision was that China lights Festival will not happen again in the Rensenpark as puts obstacles to the tenants’ income and activities.

Additionally from our part, it was obvious that the Tibetan culture represented in our Museum, did not match with the whole presentation of the China lights Festival in the past years.

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*Febr. 2022. Picture of our museum under the China Lights exhibition, which had happened in the Renssenpark, where the MoCTA is located.*



*Another Festival at the Park is the “Fables and Phantasy” which is welcome at a weekend and it is happening once a year. MoCTA Team of Volunteers participated in the” 2022 Festival in the Rensenpark.*

## **New Sculptures in our Gallery spaces**

These are special sculptures that present Tibetan Goddesses. They are brought from S. India. In March 2022 the Museum representative Ven Tashi Norbu travelled to Siliguri, East India. He was hosted by Utpal Paul, a master sculptor of Buddhist Deities. He trained Lama Tashi Norbu on sculpturing Tibetan Buddhist deities such as “Manjushri” which was brought in our Museum in Emmen

Also four of these sculptures were transported to our Museum and they are hosted at our Gallery spaces.



*Some sculptures out of clay, at which Lama Tashi Norbu was trained, in Siliguri sculpturing center, in East India. Art works are now at our Gallery and the Museum shop.*

## **Creative activities and Festivals**

Lama Tashi represents the Museum in various festivals across the country. We strongly believe that these actions help the Museum to generate income and move forward to preserve its aim and missions to the world.

Sand mandalas are creations which are happening at the Museum and across the country by Lama Tashi Norbu. The sand mandala is a traditional piece of Art made by monk and nun Artists in Tibetan Monasteries. It represents harmony. The specific one hosted in our Museum represents the importance of respecting others’ religious traditions.

The Sand Mandala are drawn by Lama Tashi with geometrical measurements. Then the Sand granules are applied, in any detail, working on it for two days at least,

continuously. The Museum Team drummers and other percussionists from the audience, usually join together and moving in, playing their drums around the Mandala captivating the audience attention, participating in the great meditation session.



**Live painting performances** took place during the year by Lama Tashi Norbu in the Museum and across the country. The Museum participated in the Paranormaal Alternatief Fair, a significant one across the Netherlands.

Lama Tashi Norbu exhibited selective pieces of Art out of his personal collection, performed Tibetan Mantra Lounge meditation sessions and created a Tibetan Sand Mandala amidst a crowd of people who were interest to all his spiritual and Artistic activities.

In the harvest moon of September 13 the Museum was invited to attend the Ayuna festimony weekend. That was a 3 day hybrid between a ceremony and a festival in the heart of Holland.



MoCTA was invited at Ayuna Festimony on 13 September 2022, The performance included live painting, Sand Mandala creation, Tibetan Mantra recitations with Tibetan musical instruments.



## Meditation

Walking Meditation is happening and Participants walk through the Emmer Forest. All have a lunch provided by Eco Plaza, who are benefactors of our Museum.



*Tibetan Healing Festival 2022 at “Groke kert”*

Lama Tashi Norbu has arranged events such as “Tibetan Healing Festival” The 2022 event of Tibetan Healing Festival was held in the Main Church of Emmen. The intention is, to be repeated every year. An action which has the support of Municipality of Emmen along with some individuals in holistic therapies who participate and sponsor the Festival.

## TIBETAN EMPOWERMENT WEEKEND

Aug. 27 & 28 The long anticipated Tibetan Empowerment weekend by Ding Gung Rinpoche was successful and inspirational. Lama Tashi Norbu’s live painting sessions had a creation of the White Tara on Saturday and the Medicine Medicine Buddha on Sunday. Both paintings were filled with recitations of the respective mantras and would be auctioned off, at a later date.



*Empowerment weekend in the front yard of the MoCTA*

Three days, 10 – 12 June a Tibetan Atmosphere in Blaricum for the “ Happy Spirit Days festival Blaricum by our Museum, represented by Lama Tashi Norbu. The visitors viewed latest artworks on display in the Yoga and Meditation Hall and the “Deel” space, where Lama Tashi created a Tibetan sandmandala

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On 28<sup>th</sup> November together with other contemporary Tibetan artists, Lama Tashi Norbu exhibited his Art at Vassar College in the state of New York.

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Lama Tashi during 2022 performed in various places in California as Sonoma Community Center, Eco Fest Encinitas and took place at the Yogananda Spiritual Musical World Premiere. He took part at events in the Resin Hermosa Gallery and Borrego Springs and made performances with some of the world's best singers,

musicians and recording studios in Los Angeles. He took also part in spiritual events organized in Georgia Atlanta by the City hall.



*Spiritual master Sujon Datta grand son of Yogananda and Lama Tashi Norbu performed a prayer ceremony for the well-being of all sentient beings in Dec 2022 sending Christmas and New year's greetings to all beings.*

## MoCTA and environmental awareness

**At Emmen goes Eco** people of Emmen showed their vision of a sustainable world. Museum in 2022 again participated, as always did, in the past several years. A construction was made under the instructions of the Sculptor Lama Tashi Norbu. It happened at the town square in front of the church; by building a Buddha statue out of waste wood.

Global warming, deforestation and the Covid-19 pandemic and everything that is happening around the world, the Buddha symbolizes compassion and healing for the entire world, including the Tibetan culture, which is under great threat due to global warming and exploitation.

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## MoCTA and Tibet Museum in Dharamsala - India

Museum of Contemporary Tibetan Art in the Netherlands and Tibet Museum in India, Dharamsala, where the residence of the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama of Tibet is, have a close connection. The MoCTA co-operates with the Tibet Museum in Dharamsala, India. Educational programs and exchange of ideas and concepts is our common aim. The Artistic Director of the Museum had a visit to the newly built ( 5 years ) Tibet Museum in India/Dharamsalah where the spiritual leader of Tibet 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama resides.

It is always an inspiring museum to look, listen and read about Tibet and it's culture and Tashi Phuntsok the Director of the Museum, gave a private tour to his guest. He had visited our museum in The Netherlands and inaugurated the permanent photography exhibition titled "Three Commitments in Life". It was consisting of 24 panels presenting His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet and his refuge to India in 1959. Also it describes moral values which are represented to the Humanity by the Dalai Lama. It describe His global activities in the West. The 24 panels are granted to the MoCTA by the Tibet Museum in India/Dharamsala, and the private office of HH Dalai Lama- Government in Exile.



*MoCTA Artistic Director Lama Tashi Norbu was invited to the Tibet Museum in Dharamasalah, India.*

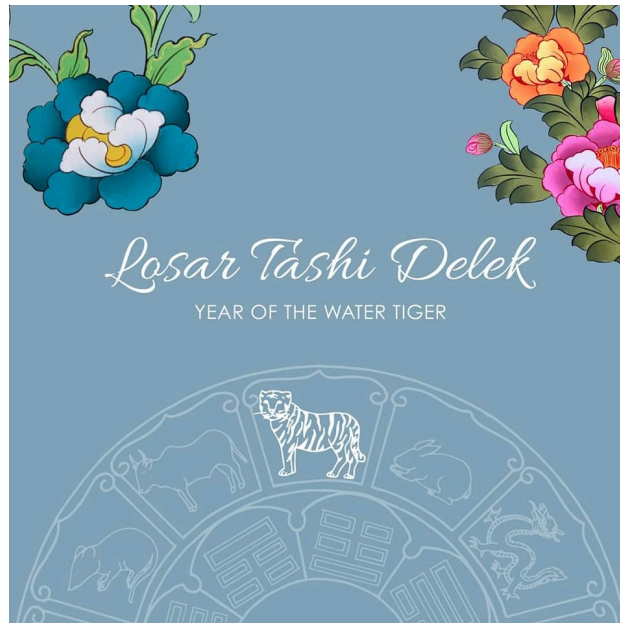
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### **LOSAR TASHI DELEK – Tibetan New Year Celebration in our Museum**

On 3 March Museum of Contemporary Tibetan Art in a quiet mode (due to Corona virus times still) celebrates Losar, the start of the Tibetan Year of the Water Tiger. Losar is celebrated with a number of special offers at household shrines, temples and monasteries. Festive “pujas” (ceremonies) are held, inviting auspicious things in people’s lives. In our Museum, many wishes were exchanged in front of our “altar”.

Because this year, more than ever, there was a need of hope for things to get better. Wishes that the whole world -still trying to get out the covid situation- may finally experience peace, health, contentment and happiness.

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*2022: year of the water tiger in our Museum of Contemporary Tibetan Art in Emmen.*

### **Exhibitions:**

#### **“Beyond the Threshold: Tibetan Contemporary Art”**

MoCTA is proud to share this article: the curator Lucie Ai of Frances Lehman Loeb Art centre has chosen Venerable Tashi Norbu's artwork for the press for their exhibition of Tibetan Contemporary Art exhibition in New York .

Beyond the Threshold: Tibetan Contemporary Art. Thus promoting our Museum in the US with this exhibition where Lama Tashi Norbu represents the Museum.

Exhibition by: Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College. 2022  
Venerable Tashi Norbu "Accepting Flowers' Culture" , 2014 Mixed media, Dutch souvenirs on wooden panel The Shelley and Donald Rubin Private Collection Image courtesy of the artist Ven Tashi Norbu . Rubin Museum of Art. New York.

"Beyond the Threshold" highlights the diversity of contemporary Tibetan creative expression, presenting works from ten artists based around the world. Born between the 1950s and 1990s, these artists amongst which is the Founder of MoCTA, are translating their experiences and insights for global audiences, driving Tibetan art into new territory by repurposing familiar imagery, providing commentary on consumer culture, and engaging social issues. Simultaneously, Tibetan and non-Tibetan viewers alike are provided space, where they are invited to discern and determine meanings for themselves, and to consider their own assumptions. Drawn from private collections and made available by the artists themselves, the objects are accompanied by bilingual English-Tibetan object labels, many of which incorporate quotes from the artists that convey the motivations and intentions behind their work.



*Venerable Tashi Norbu "Accepting Flowers' Culture" , 2014 Mixed media, Dutch souvenirs on wooden panel The Shelley and Donald Rubin Private Collection Image courtesy of the artist Ven Tashi Norbu . Rubin Museum of Art. New York.*

## **“East Meets West”**

“With Time Travelers and flying mystics” Artworks by Ven. Tashi Norbu, which started 11th Dec. 2021 and was on until 31 December 2022.

The exhibition which started June 2021 and still went on up to the end of 2022 hosts Artworks of the Founder of the MoCTA, Artist Tashi Norbu. It is about a transportation or a flight, of Tibetan monks in the Tibetan plateau and its landscapes. Painting are depicting flying mystics, unicorns, butterflies, angels, comics, energy, meditation, or reflections of human’s desire to fly into the skies. The Eastern painter explores into Western style with Tibetan subjects, motives, images, symbols and archetypes. comics, energy, meditation, or reflections of human’s desire to fly into the skies.. East and West meet, because their virtues blend, share and embrace aspects, ideas and attitudes, especially valuable in this era of global concern, to create a synergy of one people, of one space.



## East Meets West

11 30  
/12 /06  
/22 /22

Rensenpark, Emmen  
**MOCTA.ORG**

Museum of  
Contemporary  
**Tibetan Art**



ook op socialmedia!  
 

The exhibition was curated by Leela Eleni Skitsa with translation from English into Dutch by Prof. Jans Van Niejenhuis.

### Workshops.

Two workshops in May, were sponsored by the Municipality of Emmen and took place in the Museum during 2022. Sunday 1 and 15 May. Residents of the municipality of Emmen participated for free.

At both dates, 1 & 15 May, Lama Tashi Norbu taught the participants how to paint a Buddha step by step, according to Tibetan guidelines. A prize was attached to both workshop for the individual who would create the most beautiful Buddha painting. The top prize was an original artwork by Tashi Norbu worth €3000. The participants were asked to bring their work to the museum, where an exhibition of the works created, would take place. Our visitors were happy to view the exceptional works of amateur painters which however were unique. A professional jury would judge the works, and announce the winner.



## MAYOR OF GEMEENTE EMMEN AND THE PRIZES FOR THE WORKSHOPS.

Five years have gone by, since our Museum opened its doors to the public and here we are today celebrating. For five years, yet during Covid times, we have been inspiring people with our Museum Artworks, aiming to preserve the Tibetan Art and Culture. We welcomed our Museum friends and visitors from all over Holland and Germany. We welcomed our Museum Sponsors such as Emmen Ekoplaza Emmen Entrepreneurs who always support us with their unique products.

A ceremony for the 5 year anniversary celebration. we were honored to have the Mayor Eric van Oosterhout and his wife and celebrate at the same time the prize giving ceremony. Indeed the museum organized a fun afternoon and celebrated its 5-years anniversary.

For this celebration and exceptional event, Our program included the reward of the best painting out of 100 participants' workshop, which took place 4 times, starting from last year, ending in May 2022. This was an interesting project dedicated to the citizens of Emmen and free of charge for them. It was subsidized by the Municipality.

The best artwork was selected by the Mayor and we rewarded the winner Ms Annemieke Verbruggen, Muserum volunteer, with a prize of an expressionistic 1,00 x1,20 m. painting, worth 3.000 Eu created by Ven Tashi Norbu.



*The Mayor and his wife chose the best work of the workshop painters. That was our volunteer's Annemieke Verbruggen artwork.*



*The winner was selected by the Mayor. Ms Annemieke Verbruggen, got the prize of an expressionistic 1,00 x1,20 m. painting, worth 3.000 Eu created by Lama Tashi Norbu.*



*Meditation session in the presence of the Mayor of the Municipality of Emmen and his wife in the Gallery space of the Museum*

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## **Delegation / Officials in MoCTA**

Rensenpark and our Museum welcome a visit from: Jetta Klijsma, commissioner of the king in Drenthe, Aldermen of the Municipality of Emmen, Jisse Otter, Dewy Leal Tanja Schepers and chairman of the VSB fund Mr. Bernt Schneiders with several employees of the VSB fund.

The delegation was received at the museum according to the Tibetan custom of welcoming and blessing by putting a Tibetan scarf (kahta) around the neck with designs with Tibetan prints, around the neck of the delegation, this was much appreciated. They came to visit the museum to learn about the activities that our museum is developing and what our museum has done with the subsidy received from the VSB fund and the municipality of Emmen. The delegation was given a short tour of the museum and was gifted of some Museum souvenirs.



*The delegation was given a short tour of the museum and was gifted some Museum souvenirs.*

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### **AUDIO TOUR IN MoCTA**

Established and fully completed in 2022 gives the visitors information in Dutch German and English about The Museum various “stops”. It talks about Tibet and Tibetan Culture and guides to the whole space in detail. A contribution from the VSB fund and the municipality of Emmen.

The delegation was given a short tour of the museum and afterwards they all received a cotton museum logo bag filled with brochures from the museum and Lama Tashi's book.

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### **Donations to the MoCTA**

Art photography



Visitors from Amsterdam contributed to the museum with donations of photographs of Tibet on aluminum plates by Rob Komen.

Bought objects by Lama Tashi

Tibetan Ancient Objects bought for the Museum by Lama Tashi Norbu during his latest travel to India. This is a series of Tibetan printing stamps, home decorative objects, objects for rituals and Tibetan musical instruments, arranged in our vitrinas.

## Education and Programs

The coronavirus disease pandemic caused a crisis in this field of education in all Museums of the world including our Museum.

## Publications



Local newspaper referring to Lama Tashi meditation activities in our Museum

## EMMEN ON THE TABLE

A beautiful book, with 60 colorful recipes and beautiful photos, was handed over by and Dijana Marusic and our Museum volunteer, Sumitra Naren to mayor Eric Van Oosterhout. The recipes in it include the Tibetan recipe made by Lama Tashi, referring how to make Tibetan “momos” a delicious plate from Tibet. place in Emmen by now.



## **-MOCTA in connection with its Founder, Venerable Tashi Norbu the engaged person for the Museum continuity, (by art Critic Eleni – Leela Skitsa)**

The Museum of Contemporary Tibetan Art is a cultural place displaying objects of Art for study and enjoyment. It shares missions and statements involving the requirement to collect, exhibit and develop knowledge and insights, create inspirations and practices. This is the aim of its Founder Ven Tashi Norbu. For him, who is a Monk and an Artist, the truth represents the beauty of art and the beauty of art, represents the truth. Thus the Monk and the Artist are one for Lama Tashi Norbu. Monasticism, according to his view, cultivates the Artistic spirit. The basic qualities of monasticism are the very qualities that Art demands from the Artist: silence, contemplation, discernment of spirits, community and humility. This is what Vincent Van Gogh the son of a Priest gave to the world, motivated by a deep spiritual vision, finding a new way to express his solidarity and compassion for humanity, and to awaken people to the sacred depths of reality. This is also what Venerable Tashi Norbu gives to his audience: a spiritual vision in Art. Through his Tibetan Contemporary paintings, his sculpting which talks about environmental awareness, his meditation sessions, his Tibetan Mantra recitations, his cultural events. Seeking to make connections between spiritual practice and creative expression.

Ven, Tashi Norbu says that “each one of us, carries within, archetypes which are found across all cultures and times; and the most powerful archetypes are the Monk and the Artist. The monk within us, is the mystical connection to the universal values, cultivating them through a commitment to spiritual practice. The Artist within us is the part of ourselves with passion and inspirations for awareness, creativity, beauty, or storytelling canvases”.

So far, the continuity of the MOCTA is very much based on the activities of Venerable Tashi Norbu the Founder and Artistic Director. He is a Tibetan who joined the Monkhood of Mahayana Tradition, following the spiritual leader of Tibet 14 Dalai Lama's path, who is one of the most influential and beloved person across the globe; who talks about universal values and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for Human Rights in 1989. While he is not the only Leader to speak on artificial intelligence, he has taken to Twitter to share his wisdom with his 18.7 million followers, and collaborated with Neuroscientists and Ethicists in Technology, in research about the sciences and the actions of meditation for cultivating compassion and altruism.

Such values are displayed at the Museum, representing the four commitments in life by the 14 Dalai Lama of Tibet, which were brought all the way in a series of 14 panels, from his Museum in McLeod Ganj, Dharamsala, India, to MOCTA. An asset for this Museum, since followers of 14 Dalai Lama would potentially visit the Museum to see the combination of Art and spirituality through the Founder's initiatives, spreading to the world the Tibetan Art and Culture. Indeed, Dalai Lama represents also, the Tibetan culture, having no political or religious impact at the Museum since the 14 panels brought in the Museum, speak about the four principles in life as spread to the world by the Dalai Lama himself: 1. Promotion of Human Values, 2. Inter-religion harmony 3. Preservation of Tibetan culture 4. Awareness of the values of ancient Indian knowledge. These principles Museum tries to preserve along with its artworks and give a reason for study and further research. This is a Museum surrounded by the natural energy of a beautiful landscape. It offers a place of calm in an idealistic world far away from the shifting terrain of the political world outside, evoking a dream-like vision of a promised land, an utopia and "Shangri – la".

The Annual Report 2020 was approved and signed by the Board in March 2022.  
Emmen, 10 March 2022,

Ronald Klaar

Leela Eleni Skitsa

Anja de Jong

Chantal Berrens