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Left image: Monks creating sand mandala. *Right image:* Completed sand mandala

Public Invited to Rare View of Creation of Sand Mandala at SBMA

Monks from Sera Mahayana Buddhist Monastery to Build Mandala
in Museum Galleries Over Six-Day Period

May 17 – 21: Public Viewing of the Creation of the Sand Mandala of Compassion

Daily 11 am – 1 pm and 2:30 – 5 pm

Sunday, May 22: Public Viewing and Dismantling Ceremony

11 am – 3 pm: Public viewing of completed sand mandala

3 pm: Closing ceremony followed by ritual dismantling of the mandala and public walk to the beach to deposit sand into the ocean

Location: Santa Barbara Museum of Art
Davidson Gallery
1130 State Street, Santa Barbara

Free with Museum admission (Tuesday – Saturday)

Free with suggested admission (Sunday)

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art (SBMA) is pleased to announce that monks from the Sera Mahayana Buddhist Monastery in South India are adding Santa Barbara as a stop during their 2011 World Peace Tour. Four artist-monks will create the Sand Mandala of Compassion (Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara) a traditional sacred symbol used as a meditational aid in Buddhism, in SBMA's Davidson Gallery over a six-

day period. Opportunity for the public to view the creation of the mandala occurs daily:
Tuesday – Saturday, May 17 – 21, 11 am – 1 pm and 2:30 – 5 pm

On **Sunday, May 22**, the public is invited to view the completed mandala 11 am – 3 pm, and take part in the closing ceremony at 3 pm, when the mandala is dismantled and the sand taken to the beach to be deposited into the ocean.

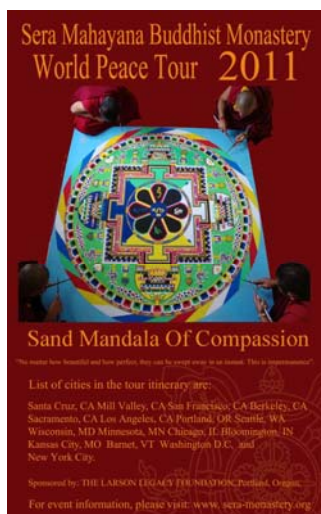
Mandalas are also understood as two-dimensional "floor plans" of three-dimensional divine palaces. At the center of this palace resides a deity who is the focus of private meditation or certain initiation rituals. Through the visualization practices upon this central deity and his/her palace, and under the guidance of a teacher, the practitioners transform their perception of the world into a pure vision of order and clarity, and ultimately enlightenment.

The mandala being created at SBMA with colored sand, is dedicated to the deity Chenrezig, the Tibetan name for Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara. Chenrezig is the embodiment of compassion that is central to the teachings of Mahayana Buddhism.

Historically, the mandala was not created with natural dyed sand, but granules of crushed colored stone. In modern times, plain white stones are ground down and dyed with opaque inks to achieve the same effect. Before laying down the sand, the monks assigned to the project draw the geometric measurements associated with the mandala. The sand granules are then applied using small tubes, funnels, and scrapers until the desired pattern is achieved.

It is common that a team of monks will work together on the project, creating one section of the diagram at a time, usually working from the center outwards.

At the completion of a sand mandala, ritual tradition requires that it be immediately dismantled and the sand returned into local waters. This dismantling signifies the Buddhist teachings of impermanence and nonattachment.



This event is part of a series in anticipation of the completion of the renovation of Museum's Asian galleries and is co-sponsored by the Museum's Friends of Asian Art and the Department of Religious Studies at UCSB. Additional support is provided by Jose Cabezon, Jordan Robinson, and China Pavilion Restaurant.

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is a privately funded, not-for-profit institution that provides internationally recognized collections and exhibitions and a broad array of cultural and educational activities as well as travel opportunities around the world.

Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA. Open Tuesday - Sunday 11 am to 5 pm. Closed Monday. 805.963.4364 www.sbma.net