

Large-Scale Exhibition of Contemporary Artists from the
Himalayas and Diaspora Presented in Dialogue with
Objects from New York’s Rubin Museum

Landmark show at Wrightwood 659 invites new ways of encountering traditional Himalayan art

Reimagine: Himalayan Art Now Nov 8, 2024 – Feb 15, 2025



WHAT ***Reimagine: Himalayan Art Now***

WHEN November 8, 2024 – February 15, 2025

WHERE Wrightwood 659, 659 W. Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614

Organized by the Rubin Museum of Art in New York on the occasion of its 20th anniversary, *Reimagine: Himalayan Art Now* presents 28 contemporary artists from the Himalayas, Asia, and diaspora whose work is presented in dialogue with objects from the Rubin Museum’s permanent collection, inviting new ways of encountering traditional Himalayan art.

The exhibition features 18 commissions as well as recent work across mediums—including painting, sculpture, sound, video, and installation—which reimagine the forms, symbols, and narratives found within the living cultural heritage of Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, and other Himalayan regions. The artists explore the continuum of the cultures that shape their identity, merging past with present into one space, and posing questions about the potential for transformation today.

Reimagine: Himalayan Art Now is presented at Wrightwood 659 by Halsted A&A Foundation. The exhibition is curated by Michelle Bennett Simorella of the Rubin Museum of Art, where it is currently on view through October 6, 2024. The original presentation was curated by Michelle Bennett Simorella, with guest curators Roshan Mishra and Tsewang Lhamo.

Also on View this Fall at Wrightwood 659: *John Akomfrah: Four Nocturnes*

This fall Alphawood Exhibitions at Wrightwood 659 presents *John Akomfrah: Four Nocturnes*, an exhibition comprised of two installations by London-based artist and filmmaker, Sir John Akomfrah. Mesmerizing and haunting, his works are characterized by their investigations into memory, post-colonialism, temporality, and aesthetics, often exploring the experiences of migrant diasporas globally. Installed in the second-floor galleries, the exhibition is on view from September 27, 2024 – February 15, 2025.

About Wrightwood 659

Founded in 2018, Wrightwood 659 is a private, non-collecting institution. Located at 659 W. Wrightwood Avenue, in Chicago’s Lincoln Park neighborhood, it is envisioned as a new kind of arts space devoted to presenting exhibitions on architecture and socially engaged art, including issues facing the LGBTQ+ community, and Asian art and architecture. Wrightwood 659 was designed by Pritzker Prize winner Tadao Ando, who transformed a 1920s building with his signature concrete forms and poetic treatment of natural light. Acclaimed as one of Chicago’s “hidden treasures,” Wrightwood 659 offers visitors a chance to engage with the pressing issues of our time in an intimate and beautiful space. For additional information, please visit wrightwood659.org.

About the Rubin Museum of Art

The Rubin is a global museum dedicated to presenting Himalayan art. Founded in 2004, the Rubin serves people internationally through exhibitions, participatory experiences, a dynamic digital platform, and partnerships. Inspired and informed by Himalayan art, the Rubin invites people to contemplate the human experience and deepen connections with the world around them in order to expand awareness, enhance well-being, and cultivate compassion. The Rubin advances scholarship through a series of educational initiatives, grants, collection sharing, and the stewardship of a collection of nearly 4,000 Himalayan art objects spanning 1,500 years of history—providing unprecedented access and resources to scholars, artists, and students across the globe. rubinmuseum.org

Wrightwood 659 Hours of Operation

Fridays 12 noon-7 pm; Saturdays 10 am-5 pm.

Tickets

Admission is \$15 and is available online only at <https://tickets.wrightwood659.org/events>. Tickets go on sale September 5, 2024. Please note, admission is by advance ticket only. Walk-ups are not permitted.

National Media Contact | Ennis O’Brien

Betsy Ennis: betsy@ennisobrien.com | +1 917.783.6553
Stephanie Markovic: stephanie@ennisobrien.com | +1 347.628.4688

Chicago Media Contact | The Silverman Group

Beth Silverman: beth@silvermangroupchicago.com | +1 312.560.4783
Louise Yingduo Liu: louise@silvermangroupchicago.com | +1 312.961.9290

Image Credits (left to right):

Meena Kayastha, *Goddess Varahi*, 2023. Traditional Nepali door, papier-mache, pliers, nails, coins, keys, jewelry, bell, discarded vehicle metal parts, 58 x 28 x 9 in. Photo courtesy of Meena Kayastha, Bhaktapur, Nepal.

Shushank Shrestha, *Male Guardian Lion Dog* (one of a pair from *Two Guardian Lion Dogs*), 2023. Ceramic, in glaze lustre, 52 × 27 × 44 in. Photo courtesy of Shuhank Shrestha, Massachusetts, USA.

Roshan Pradhan, *New World*, 2021. Acrylic on canvas, 183 x 152.5 cm. Photo courtesy of Sangeeta Thapa, Founder Director Siddhartha Art Gallery, Kathmandu, Nepal.