RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART NAMED FINALIST FOR 2023 IMLS NATIONAL MEDAL
FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK, MARCH 28 —The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) announced today that the Rubin Museum of Art is among 30 finalists for the 2023 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The Rubin is the only institution in New York State to be selected as a finalist for this award.

The National Medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries that demonstrate significant impact in their communities. For more than 25 years, the award has honored institutions that demonstrate excellence in service to their communities.

"Being nominated is an extraordinary honor for the Rubin Museum of Art," says Rubin Museum of Art Executive Director Jorrit Britschgi. "Having just launched our largest institutional initiative to date, Project Himalayan Art, it is a timely moment to recognize the efforts of our dedicated staff and community. It amplifies the work we do to expand the understanding of Himalayan art beyond our institutional walls."

Earlier this year the Rubin launched Project Himalayan Art, the first initiative of its kind to offer comprehensive, introductory resources for learning about Himalayan art, with a focus on the cross-cultural exchange of Tibetan, Himalayan, and Inner Asian art and cultures. Its integrated components—a nationally traveling exhibition offered free to universities, an expansive digital platform, and a major publication—are designed to support the inclusion of Himalayan art into humanities and liberal arts curricula in higher education, as well as enable people around the world to discover Himalayan art.

"So many museums and libraries across the country are committed to providing programs that are vital to the health and growth of engaged communities. We are very proud to announce the 30 finalists for this year's IMLS National Medal," said IMLS Director Crosby Kemper. "These institutions represent the best of what museums and libraries do for their communities."

National Medal winners will be announced in late May. Representatives from winning institutions will be honored for their extraordinary contributions during an in-person National Medals Ceremony this summer.

To see the full list of finalists and learn more about the National Medal, visit the IMLS website.

To celebrate this honor, IMLS is encouraging the Rubin Museum of Art's community members to share stories, memories, pictures, and videos on social media using the hashtags #ShareYourStory and #IMLSmedals, and engage with IMLS on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. For more information, please visit the IMLS website.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. IMLS advances, supports, and empowers America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. It envisions a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov and follow IMLS on Facebook and Twitter.

SUPPORT

Leadership support for Project Himalayan Art is provided by the Henry Luce Foundation.

Lead support is provided by the Ellen Bayard Weedon Foundation, Bob and Lois Baylis, Barbara Bowman, the E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Noah P. Dorsky, Fred Eychaner, Christopher J. Fussner, Matt and Ann Nimetz, The Randleigh Foundation Trust, and Shelley and Donald Rubin.

Major support is provided by Daphne Hoch Cunningham and John Cunningham, the Edward & Elizabeth Gardner Foundation, Mimi Gardner Gates, Hongwei Li, the Monimos Foundation, Rossi & Rossi, Namita and Arun Saraf, Eric and Alexandra Schoenberg, Eileen Caulfield Schwab, UOVO, Sandy Song Yan, and the Zhiguan Museum of Art.

Special Support is provided by:

Dr. Bibhakar Sunder Shakya, to honor the memory and legacy of Professor Dina Bangdel, art historian, curator, cultural activist, and educator from Nepal.

Samphe and Tenzin Lhalungpa, to honor the memory and works of L.P. Lhalungpa, Tibetan scholar, broadcaster, and educator.

This project is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Project Himalayan Art has been made possible in part by a major grant from The National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom.

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this initiative, do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

ABOUT THE RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART

The Rubin Museum of Art in Chelsea, New York City, explores and celebrates Himalayan art, cultures, and ideas across history and into the present. With its globally renowned collection, centered largely around art from the Tibetan Plateau, the Rubin fosters understanding and appreciation of Himalayan art by interpreting and relating it to our shared human experience today. Inspired by the tenets of Buddhism, Hinduism, and indigenous religions, and aligned with ongoing research into learning, behavior, and the brain, the Rubin offers innovative exhibitions and programs that examine provocative ideas across the arts and explore the mind. Through this work, the Museum serves as a space for reflection and personal transformation, opening windows to inner worlds so visitors can better navigate outer ones. rubinmuseum.org

MEDIA CONTACT
Sandrine Milet |Senior Manager, Communications & Marketing| 212-620-5000 x228
press@rubinmuseum.org

IMLS Contact: Savannah Young, syoung@vancomm.com, 202-248-5446