

January 2002
SACRED SOUND, SACRED SPACE
The Tibetan Buddhist Monks of Jungba
from Sera Monastic University, South India
Present:
A Creation of the Sand Mandala of Avalokiteshvara
Chenrezig (Tibetan), Buddha of Compassion (English), Kwan Yin (Chinese),
to be held by:
David Suzuki's Sacred Balance Productions
at
Sherway Gardens Mall

We are honoured to have received this invitation from David Suzuki's Sacred Balance Productions and Sherway Gardens Mall for the monks of Jungba to bring you the auspicious creation of a Sand Mandala of Avalokiteshvara (Buddha of Compassion) and its accompanying ritual ceremonies. Four highly-trained Tibetan Buddhist monk artists, from Sera Monastic University in South India, under the guidance of Pencho Rabgey, will be presiding over the creation of this Sand Mandala at Sherway Gardens Mall.

Visitors will be able to witness, over the course of several days, the monks create what is both an architectural map and sacred art representing the divine abode of the Buddha. The actual abode of Buddha is rainbow like, beyond defilement, a perfect palace. One is said to attain a positive karmic imprint on one's mind stream when one views the completed mandala, as though a seed has been planted for one to later attain enlightenment in the form of the Buddha of Compassion.

The monks have been initiated into the mandala whereby they undertake daily practices on the path to their attainment of Buddhist enlightenment. They have memorised the text, colour schemes, symbolism, and physical techniques of the art. For the monks, the process of sand mandala creation is both physically arduous and a meditational reflection on the development of the mind of compassion – the heart essence of becoming a Buddha.

From Los Angeles to Houston, Boston, and Toronto's Harbourfront, and the ROM these monks have had much critical acclaim for their remarkably beautiful and spiritually uplifting Buddhist traditional artistic creations. The Sand Mandala creation at the Sherway Mall will likely be an important exhibit for the visiting public who may have never seen a mandala before. We have a great opportunity to work together on realising what promises to be an extremely successful and exciting exhibit.

Donations offered through an on site donation box by the visiting public will be given to the project of rebuilding of Jungba Monastery in Eastern Tibet. Jungba is the home village of the monks. Jungba monastery is the spiritual centre for this marginalised area in the Himalayas where 800 families struggle to meet their day to day needs.
