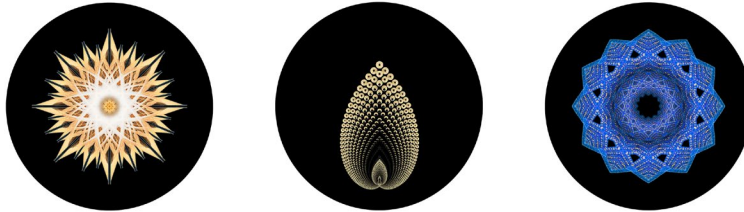


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 18, 2022

**Tibet House US in New York presents *RADIANCE + REFLECTION*,
a solo exhibition by Los Angeles-based artist David Orr**



OPENING RECEPTION **April 7, 2022, 6-8pm** (note our new Gallery hours)

ARTIST TALK: **April 9, 2022, 5-6:30pm**

NEW YORK, NY (March 18, 2022)— Tibet House US is pleased to present ***Radiance + Reflection: Mandalas and Moon***, a new solo exhibition of work by Los Angeles-based visual artist David Orr. Orr’s work explores symmetry, themes of interconnection and impermanence, and ways we apply order. The exhibition runs April 7 to July 9.

Images of sacred texts and the moon

The exhibition is organized around two primary bodies of work emerging from Orr’s interests where philosophy and science align: *ILLUMINED*, wherein photographs of sacred manuscripts, texts, and sūtras are digitally recombined into abstract forms, and *Mandala Lunae*, moon photography which Orr arranges into complex geometries — a series begun and developed when he had to stay-in-place during the pandemic.

These works in ***Radiance + Reflection*** serve as visual meditations on light. The moon is an enduring Buddhist symbol of truth and enlightenment and his recombined manuscripts obscure the text, appearing as ‘sparks of thought in the dark,’ evoking the Daoist saying: “the deepest truths can never be captured by words alone.”

The works in both series reference sacred geometry, orbital patterns, the Fibonacci series (the spiral sequence that appears in snail shells and galaxies), and other natural forms. All represent ideas in Buddhist thought: transformation, interconnection, spiritual aspects, and the uncanny alignment with quantum physics.

The show will include text-based works, video, and images of human skulls from Orr’s *Perfect Vessels* series.

Tibet House invites viewers along for a transcendent, restorative journey

“David Orr’s work is elegant, challenging, inspiring, and memorable,” Tibet House co-founder and president Robert A.F. Thurman notes. “When you get closer, you are irresistibly attracted by its symmetrical beauty.”

“Mandalas are the sacred cosmograms of the Hindu-Buddhist world in Asia,” says Beata Tikos, managing director of Tibet House US. “We responded to David’s use of sacred texts from different traditions and the global messages they bring forward of reflection and encouragement to study the mind.”

Prior to the pandemic, Orr had photographed sacred and philosophical texts—from Dante’s *Divine Comedy* to the *Lotus Sūtra*—during a residency at the Philosophical Research Society in Los Angeles. Later, confined to home as the pandemic took hold, Orr began photographing the moon by telescope, then creating formations he would email to friends and family each Monday (the day named for the moon). “It served as a way to say ‘keep looking towards light’ to the people I care about, as well as a weekly challenge to myself,” says Orr.

Moons and mandalas are universal. “Any mandala is a symbolic map of the universe, and the term comes from the Sanskrit word for ‘circle,’” Orr explains. “Carl Jung noted the mandala form appears in every culture’s belief system. From the earliest celestial maps to probability diagrams in contemporary particle physics, we consistently choose a symmetrical, balanced circular form when representing complex information visually.”

“I’m fascinated by systems we use to make sense of the world around us,” David continues. “But so often, the order we impose becomes mistaken for truth itself. By recombining these images, I’m looking to create meditative catalysts to push us past the material, into the world beyond reason.”

Special events

- Press preview: April 6, 1-3pm. [Please RSVP](#). Tour the show and meet the artist. Electronic press kit with images at this [Dropbox link](#).
- Opening reception, April 7, 6-8pm. In-person. [Register](#)
- Artist talk: “Mapping the universe: The mandala in sacred, scientific, and artistic practice.” April 9, 5-6:30pm with David Orr, Robert Thurman, and David Kittay, Columbia University Department of Religion. In-person and live-streamed. \$15. [Register](#)

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Radiance + Reflection is organized by Tibet House US. Tibet House US Gallery is open Wednesday - Sunday (11am-6pm). Admission is free. The gallery is located on 22 West 15th Street, New York, NY 10011. To plan your visit, go to www.thus.org or call Beata Tikos at 212-807-0563. A virtual exhibit is available at www.thus.org. An exhibition catalog with a forward by Robert A.F. Thurman is being produced.

About David Orr:

LA-based artist David Orr’s work has been shown extensively internationally alongside artists including David Maisel, Yoko Ono, and Gavin Turk. His work is in public collections among artists such as John Baldessari, David Hockney, and Joel-Peter Witkin. He has been awarded fellowships from The Krishnamurti Foundation, The Mütter Museum, and the Philosophical Research Society, and is a member of the Long Now Foundation. Visit www.david-orr.com

About Tibet House US Gallery:

The Tibet House US gallery showcases contemporary exhibitions that encompass painting, sculpture, multimedia, calligraphy, photography and more. Exhibitions have included works by Tibetan artists as well as representative work from other Buddhist cultures – Mongolia, Korea, Japan and others. The gallery, situated in the heart of Manhattan, provides exposure and support for work inspired by Tibetan culture and all facets of its sacred arts, in order to actively engage the viewer with a contemporary understanding of the unique contribution this endangered culture offers to our world today.

The 2,000 square foot Gallery is open to the public and includes a traditional Tibetan shrine room, which is available to visitors for quiet contemplation and meditation.

Covid-19 precautions:

Tibet House US has developed safety plans amid the COVID-19 pandemic. [View current guidelines](#).

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Images (L to R):

Embekka Alankarya II (manuscript of Dr. Ananda K. Coomaraswamy) / Moon Mandala N° 13 / Daihannya-kyō (Perfection of Wisdom Sūtra)