



Sands of Time

THE ANCIENT TRADITIONS OF TIBET, SANDAL SAND PAINTING ENCOURAGES GLOBAL HEALING—AN APPROPRIATE RITUAL FOR THE BUDDHIST MONKS DRIVEN FROM THEIR HOMETLAND BY CHINA. THIS PAST SPRING, EIGHT MONKS FROM DREPUNG LOSELING MONASTERY IN INDIA VISITED RUTGERS-CAMDEN TO CREATE A SACRED MANDALA IMAGE THAT REPRESENTED THE IMPERMANENCE OF LIFE. THE CEREMONY OPENED WITH THE POUNDING OF DRUMS, A LOUD BLAST OF TRUMPETS, THE CHIME OF CYMBALS, AND THE CHANTING OF MANTRAS. AFTER OUTLINING THE DESIGN ON A WOODEN PLATFORM, THE MONKS EACH HELD A METAL FUNNEL CALLED A *CHAK-PUR* WHILE RUNNING A

METAL ROD ON ITS GRATED SURFACE, CAUSING COLORED SAND TO FLOW LIKE LIQUID INTO PATTERNS. CREATING THE IMAGE TOOK FOUR DAYS, BUT WHEN IT WAS DONE, THE MONKS SWEEPED THE SAND INTO AN URN AND MARCHED TO WIGGINS PARK. AFTER DISTRIBUTING SOME OF THE SAND AMONG OBSERVERS, THE MONKS POURED THE REST INTO THE DELAWARE RIVER SO THAT ITS WATERS COULD CARRY THE MANDALA'S BLESSING TO THE OCEANS AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

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