



GONKAR GYATSO

Lives and works in Beijing, China, London, UK, and New York, USA

Education

- 1999 – 2000 MA Fine Art, Chelsea College of Art and Design, London (Distinction)
1980 – 1984 BA (Hons), Traditional Chinese Painting, Department of Fine Art, Central Institute of Nationalities, Beijing, China

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2017 **Art Asia in London** (special commission for 20th Annoversary), TAG Fine Arts, London
2015 **Buddha**, Museum Angewandtkunst Frankfurt, Germany
2014 **Words Tend to be Inadequate**, Pearl Lam Galleries, Shanghai, China
2014 **AAF Singapore**, TAG Fine Arts, F1 Pit Building, Singapore
2014 **Metaphysical**, Mimmo Scognamiglio Artecontemporanea, Milan
2014 **Tibet and India, Buddhist Traditions and Transformations**, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
2014 **London Art Fair**, TAG Fine Arts, London
2013 **Sullivan & Strumpf**, Sydney, Australia
2013 **Art Stage Singapore**, Anthony Meier Fine Art, Haunch of Venison, Singapore
2012 **Seeking Shambhala**, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston MA
2012 **Ministry of Truth**, Boers-Li Gallery, Beijing, China
2012 **Bologna Art First**, Bologna
2012 **Art Stage Singapore**, Haunch of Venison, Singapore
2012 **Selected Works: New Acquisitions from the QUT Art Collection**, Queensland University of Technology Art Museum
2011 **The Art of Mapping**, TAG Fine Arts, London
2011 **Roundabout**, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel
2011 **Buddha's Trace**, Kunstmuseum Bochum, Germany
2011 **The Artist as Rishi**, International Centre of Contemporary Art, Rome, Italy
2011 **Tradition Transformed: Tibetan Artists Respond**, Hood Museum, Hanover, USA
2011 **Drawn from Life**, Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Cumbria
2011 **London Art Fair**, TAG Fine Arts, Islington, London
2010 **Identity Theft**, Mimmo Scognamiglio Arte Contemporanea, Milan
2010 **Multiplied Contemporary Editions Fair**, TAG Fine Arts, Christie's, London
2010 **Scorching Sun of Tibet**, Songzhuang Art Centre, China
2010 **Tradition Transformed: Tibetan Artists Respond**, Rubin Museum of Art, New York, USA
2010 **World of Thousands**, Space Station, Beijing, China
2010 **The Beauty of Distance, Songs of Survival in a Precarious Age**, 17th Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
2010 **Mapping Identity**, curated by Carol Solomon and Janet Yoon, Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery, Philadelphia, USA
2010 **A Man is not a Tree**, Galarie Sherin Najjar, Berlin, Germany
2010 **The 6th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art**, Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia
2010 **25th London Original Print Fair**, TAG Fine Arts, Royal Academy, London
2010 **London Art Fair**, Islington, London, with TAG Fine Arts
2009 **Tempting God**, China Art Projects, Depot Gallery, Australia,
2009 **24th London Original Print Fair**, Royal Academy, TAG Fine Arts, London
2009 **Trading Meaning**, DAC Gallery, Beijing, China
2009 **Tibet Art Now: on the threshold of a new future**, Tibet Art Gallery, Temple, Amsterdam
2009 **Unbounded: New Art for a New Century**, Newark Museum, USA
2009 **Tibetan Visions: Contemporary Painting from Tibet**, Asia Onlus, Rome, Italy
2008 **A Question of Evidence**, Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Vienna
2008 **Return to Lhasa**, Red Gate Gallery, Beijing, China

- 2008 **The Asia Pacific Contemporary Art Fair**, shContemporary 08, Shanghai
- 2008 **Contemporary Tibetan Art**, Art Hong Kong 08, Hong Kong
- 2008 **Gonkar Gyatso Retrospective**, Art Dubai 2008, United Arab Emirates
- 2007 **Past & Present – Tibetan Art – 13th to 21st Century**, Christopher Farr Courtyard Gallery, Los Angeles
- 2007 **Buddha and Christ – a sense of togetherness**, The Sweet Tea House, London
- 2007 **Consciousness and Form – Contemporary Tibetan Art**, Rossi & Rossi, London
- 2007 **Hobby Horse – Yeah, Yeah Dada asia**, Avanthay Contemporary, Zurich
- 2007 **Thermocline of new Art Asian Waves**, ZKM / Museum of Contemporary Art, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2007 **Contemporary Tibetan Art at 798**, Red Gate Gallery, Beijing, China
- 2007 **Tibetan encounters; contemporary meets tradition**, Neuhoff Gallery, New York
- 2007 **Terrain**, inIVA, London
- 2006 **Oh! What a beautiful day – Peter Towse and Gonkar Gyatso's Shared Visions**, Rossi & Rossi, London
- 2006 **Waves on the Turquoise Lake: Contemporary Expressions of Tibetan Art**, CU Art Museum & The Colorado Collection, University of Colorado, Boulder
- 2006 **Modern Art from the Roof of the World – Contemporary Tibetan Art**, Siebnbergsmuseum, Germany
- 2006 **Tibet**, Wereld Museum, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2006 **Culture bound – East Wing Collection VII**, Courtauld Institute of Art, London
- 2006 **Rethinking Tradition – Contemporary Tibetan Artists in the West**, Visual Art Gallery, Emory University, Atlanta, USA
- 2005 **Die funf Tibeter-zeitgenossische tibetische kunst**, Gallery Artraktion, Bern
- 2005 **From classic to contemporary – vision from Tibet**, Rossi & Rossi and the Sweet Tea House – Contemporary Tibetan Art Gallery, London
- 2004 **The Refuge Week; Leave to remain** selected group show, Immigration and Diversity Museum, London
- 2003 **Sanctuary Contemporary Art & Human Rights**, Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow
- 2003 **Radiant Transmission: Contemporary Masterpieces of Tibetan Buddhist Art**, October Gallery, London
- 2000 **MA Degree shows**, Chelsea College of Art and Design, London
- 1999 **Limbers Due Tibet**, selected group show, Lyon City Gallery, France
- 1998 **Visions From Himalaya Contemporary Tibetan Art**, selected group show, The Reality Room Gallery, Washington
- 1997 **MA Degree Show**, Central St. Martin's College of Art and Design, London
- 1989 **The National Avant-Garde Fine Art Exhibition**, The National Art Gallery, Beijing
- 1985-87 **The Sweet Tea House Artists Group Show**, The Sweet Tea House, Lassa, Tibet

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2015 **Transcendental**, Mimmi Scognamiglio Milan, Italy
- 2014 **Gonkar Gyatso: Pop Phraseology**, Pearl Lam, Hong Kong
- 2014 **Meditations on Irony**, Moot Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2013 **Mass MoCa**, North Adams, MA
- 2013 **Collections Show**, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
- 2012 **Three Realms: Gonkar Gyatso**, Griffith University Art Gallery and the University of Queensland Art Museum and Institute of Modern Art, Australia
- 2011 **Solo Show**, Institute of Modern Art and Griffith University, Brisbane
- 2009 **Making Worlds**, 53rd Venice Biennial
- 2008 **Gonkar Gyatso Retrospective**, Art Dubai
- 2004 **Tibetan Word – art of communication**, The Sweet Tea House – Contemporary Tibetan art gallery, London
- 2003 **Leverhulme Fellowships and Artist Residence Show**, Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford, Oxford
- 1999 **Contemporary Tibetan Art – Gonkar Gyatso**, The Sontsen House Gallery, Zurich
- 1997 **Gonkar Gyatso - Contemporary Tibetan Buddhist art**, International Cultural Centre, Helsinki
- 1996 **The footprints of Buddha**, International Cultural Centre, New Delhi
- 1994 **The Contemporary Artist – Gonkar Gyatso**, Anymacheng Instud, Dharamsalla, India

1987 **Modern Tibet Art of Gyatso**, The Revolution Exhibition Hall of Tibet, Lhasa, Tibet

Collections

2009 Fidelity Investments, London
2008 Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art, Australia
2008 White Rabbit Gallery, Australia
2007 Crocker Art Museum, California, USA
2007 The Burger Collection, Switzerland
2007 White Rabbit Gallery, Australia
2007 Red Gate Gallery, Beijing, China
2007 Wereld Museum, Rotterdam, Nederland
2006 The Newark Museum, New York, USA
2006 Rossi & Rossi, London
2005 Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford
2004 Immigration and Diversity Museum, London
2003 Sweet Tea House-Contemporary Tibetan Art Gallery, London

Fellowships and Residence

2011 Singapore Tyler Print Institute, Singapore, Artist in Residence
2003 The Leverhulme Trust, London. (Leverhulme fellowships and Artist residence at Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford)
2001 Southern Art, Hampshire, England. (Year of Art 2000 Artist's residence)
1996 Central St. Martin's College of Art & Design, London. (Guest Artist scholarship)
1989-91 Centre Academy of fine art & Crafts, Beijing, China, (Fellowship for contemporary crafts design)

About the Artist

Gonkar Gyatso was born in 1961 in Lhasa, Tibet. He studied Fine Art in Beijing and finished his Master studies in London at Chelsea College of Art and Design. He is the founder of the Contemporary Tibetan art gallery, The Sweet Tea House. Gyatso was selected to take a part in the 53rd Venice Biennial 2009. His work has been published internationally and exhibited in galleries and museums including: The Metropolitan Museum of Art New York, The Chinese National Art Gallery (Beijing), The Kangra Museum (India), The Glasgow Gallery of Modern Art (Scotland), The Courtauld Institute of Art (London), The Wereld Museum Rotterdam (Netherlands) and Colorado University Art Museum and Collections (USA). Works by Gyatso are now held in The Newark Museum (USA), The Pitt Rivers Museum (Oxford), Queensland Gallery of Modern Art (Australia), Burger Collection (Switzerland), The Newark Museum (New York), and numerous private collections.

Gyatso's current work stems from his fascination with material and pop culture, and calls attention to the mundane as well as the extraordinary in comical but beautiful hybrid collections of images. He imaginatively pokes fun at modern times, even as he engages with contemporary concerns. He brings his own transnational experience to bear on his art, and while not overtly political, he is not afraid to allude to political themes. Gyatso explains that "just as the identity of my motherland, Tibet, cannot be separated from religion and politics, I think my own sensibility has been shaped by the undeniable bond between the two."