

Tibetan Nuns Project

Butter Sculpture Workshop at Dolma Ling Nunnery



TIBETAN NUNS PROJECT

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The art of making sculptures out of yak butter has been practiced by monks in the monasteries in Tibet for over 400 years. As part of elaborate rituals and celebrations, particularly the New Year, butter sculptures can be huge and impressive or tiny and intricate, but all require painstaking skill, learned from an excellent teacher and through years of practice.

At Dolma Ling Nunnery and Institute in India the nuns have been learning how to make butter sculptures from their excellent teacher Gen. Karma-la who patiently takes them through all the steps and the significance of each butter sculpture technique. He finds that the nuns with their nimble fingers, their keen sense of color and design, and their endless patience make excellent students.

The increasing shortage of well-trained and skilled butter sculptors in Tibet means that it is crucial that in India the monks and now the nuns learn this religious art as part of their course of studies in order to keep it from dying out.

However, creating butter sculptures in the hot climate of India is problematic. The workshop room must be cool and have access to cold water in which to lay the butter and cool the nuns' fingers. Until now, the nuns have been using a makeshift space that gets very hot so they are only able to make sculptures during the coldest months.

We would love your help to create a butter sculpture workshop.

PROJECT COST: US \$2500.

**TO HELP CREATE THE BUTTER SCULPTURE WORKSHOP AND EMPOWER THE NUNS TO SAVE THIS
UNIQUE CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS ART YOU CAN**

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