

MUSEUM

SUGAR, 'SECONDBUDDHA' FOCUS OF SPRING EXHIBITS AT TANG

Related programs include lunch talks, tours

By Amy Biancolli

Two exhibitions — one exploring the sweet-and-sour history of sugar production and consumption, another focused on the “second Buddha” — will anchor a packed spring schedule of events and exhibits at the Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College.

Set to run from Feb. 9, through June 9, “Like Sugar” will probe the crystalline sweetener using “historical materials, material culture, and works by contemporary artists,” according to a press release from the Tang, located on the Skidmore campus at 815 North Broadway in Saratoga Springs.

Programming scheduled in conjunction with the exhibition includes several noontime Tuesday events: a discussion on “Sugar and the Natural World: Seduction and Destruction” (Feb. 26); a brown-bag lunch with culinary historian Michael Twitty (March 26); and two curators’ tours (on March 19 and April 2). “Sugar Stories: Sweet & Bittersweet,” a conversation between curators and invited guests, will be on Wednesday, April 10.

In addition, at 6 p.m. Monday, March 4, Tang curator-at-large Isolde Brielmaier will moderate a discussion on “Food Futures: Food Justice, Sustainability, and Well-Being” with panelists including author Anthony Hatch (“Blood Sugar: Racial Pharmacology and Food Justice in Black America”) and Grafton farmer and food justice activist Leah Penniman.

Scheduled for Feb. 9 through May 19, “The Second Buddha: Master of Time” will examine Buddhist master Padmasambhava via “sculpture, Tibetan scroll paintings (thangkas), textiles, and manuscripts from the 13th through 19th centuries.”

Several events, all slated for 6 p.m.,



have been scheduled in coordination: “An Artist’s View of the Second Buddha,”

featuring Tibetan painter Pema Namdol Thaye (Feb. 19); “The Second Buddha:

Tang.skidmore.edu
Artist unknown (Tibet), “Padmasambhava,” 19th-century, pigment on cloth, 28 1/4 by 20 inches, image courtesy of the Ruben Museum of Art.

Master of Time — Bringing the Past to Life: Visions, Writing, and Me,” with Harvard professor Janet Gyatso, who translated autobiographies by 18th-century Tibetan Buddhist master Jigme Lingpa (Feb. 21); “Seeing Without Looking: A Psychoanalytic View of Great Perfection Contemplation in Tibet,” with Jacob Dalton, chair of Tibetan Buddhist studies at UC Berkeley (March 20); “Art About Art,” with remarks by Rob Linrothe, art history professor at Northwestern University (March 26); and “Radical Presence and Social Justice,” featuring author, activist and Tibetan lama Rod Owens (April 4).

Curators’ tours of the “Second Buddha” exhibit have been scheduled for 4 p.m. Feb. 9 and 12 p.m. Feb. 12.

The full spring calendar also features a student-curated project organized by Dayna Joseph (May 4-May 19) and “Tel_,” artist Amu Patton’s reimagining of the Tang’s mezzanine “as a community space for conversation and contemplation” (through September). Additional spring events include “Off the Shelf,” a site-specific theater piece by Carolyn Anderson and Garrett Wilson (March 27-29), with a related exhibit culled from the Tang collection; and the “SoundMind” series of sonic meditation.

For more information, including the full calendar of events and exhibits, see tang.skidmore.edu or call 518-580-8080.

Admission to the Tang Teaching Museum is free, donations suggested. Some events require a reservation.