

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Aug. 17, 2012
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Art installation celebrates impending visit by
His Holiness the Dalai Lama at WCSU

DANBURY, CONN. — Western Connecticut State University, in cooperation with DNKL (Do Ngak Kunphen Ling) Buddhist Center, will present “Reflection: Indra’s Net,” an exhibit of sculpture, sound and music, to mark the beginning of a series of arts and music events that will culminate with talks by His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the university on October 18 and 19. The exhibit will be presented from Wednesday, Sept. 5, through Wednesday, Sept. 19, in Warner Hall on the WCSU Midtown campus, 181 White St. in Danbury. Viewing hours will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends. The exhibit will be free and the public is invited.

“Reflection” is the result of a unique collaboration between London artist Susan Haire and New York composer Stephen Dydo. The exhibit examines interconnectedness as represented by Indra’s Net, an infinite lattice encrusted with glittering jewels; each reflecting all the others in its facets and each containing the whole. In the exhibition, 600 mirrored sunglass lenses reflect the viewer simultaneously and shimmering pennants are suspended around the space. At the same time, each installation projects its own sonic environment through special headphones supplied at the exhibition. Looking up at a sculpture of glimmering shattered DVDs, one hears a continuously rising, crystalline melody, while turning towards a mirror maze in the center of the exhibition, the listener hears a dance piece for rock ensemble. Offering an invitation to a journey of self-reflection, the exhibition draws on the medieval tradition of Speculum, by using the mirror as an aid to reflection and contemplation. Visitors will not only see images of themselves but multiple reflections of the space and different reflective materials creating myriad distortions. Reflection is both the subject and the medium; the installations consider Buddhist principles but also embrace broader contemplative images and ideas drawn from different philosophies.

Major portions of this installation were shown in May and June this year at Peterborough Cathedral, England. This ambitious exhibition ranged across the Cathedral with works a hundred feet high. Dydo and Haire have been working together since 2006 to create collaborative installations. Using the combined art forms of Haire’s 3-D work, sculpture and painting and Dydo’s music and sound, they develop ideas together to build a themed body of work creating multi-dimensional environments for specific spaces. They have had six previous exhibitions including “La vita nuova” at The Cello Factory in London in 2007 and “Watermusic” at outLINE in Amsterdam in 2010.

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Anticipation on campus and in the community is high for the October visit by the Dalai Lama.

WCSU President James W. Schmottter remarked, “As His Holiness the Dalai Lama has said, where ignorance is the master, there is no possibility of real peace. We hope to learn from him in his teaching to help us in our struggle against ignorance at Western Connecticut State University. In forging friendships that will bring His Holiness the Dalai Lama to our university, we have made many friends with our new colleagues from DNKL and from the Office of Tibet. We know that His Holiness will become a new friend as well when he comes to see us at the university”

Janine Coover, events coordinator at DNKL, expressed gratitude on behalf of DNKL, “Our purpose is to help others, and in cooperation with WCSU, this historic visit by His Holiness the Dalai Lama will impact our communities and make a difference to create a happier world.”

Lobsang Nyandak, representative of his Holiness the Dalai Lama to the Americas, remarked “We are looking forward to the October visit at WCSU. His Holiness the Dalai Lama focuses on the educational institutions throughout the world, and reaches out to young people so that, through education, we can improve the human values in our society, and the world at large can become a better place.”

DNKL Tibetan Buddhist Center, located in Redding, Conn., under the guidance of spiritual director Gyumed Khensur Rinpoche Lobsang Jampa and the spiritual tradition of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, promotes Universal Peace through Tibetan Buddhist teachings to create enlightened individuals who work to end the suffering of others. DNKL offers classes (both online and at the center) and training in Buddhist moral discipline, meditative concentration, and transformative wisdom.

For more information, call the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.

WestConn

Western Connecticut State University offers outstanding faculty in a range of quality academic programs. Our diverse university community provides students an enriching and supportive environment that takes advantage of the unique cultural offerings of Western Connecticut and New York. Our vision: To be an affordable public university with the characteristics of New England’s best small private universities.