



# THANGKA & TIBETAN ART

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THE TRADITIONAL AND THE CONTEMPORARY

## MEET TENZIN “TENRAB” RABGYAL

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Thangka master – 20 years experience

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1997 – enrolled at TCV Suja for Thangka study

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Studied at Norbulingka for 10 years

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Worked at Namgyal Monastery for 4 years

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Opened studio on Jogiwara Rd. 2 years ago

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Currently teaching out of studio



# TENRAB'S GOALS

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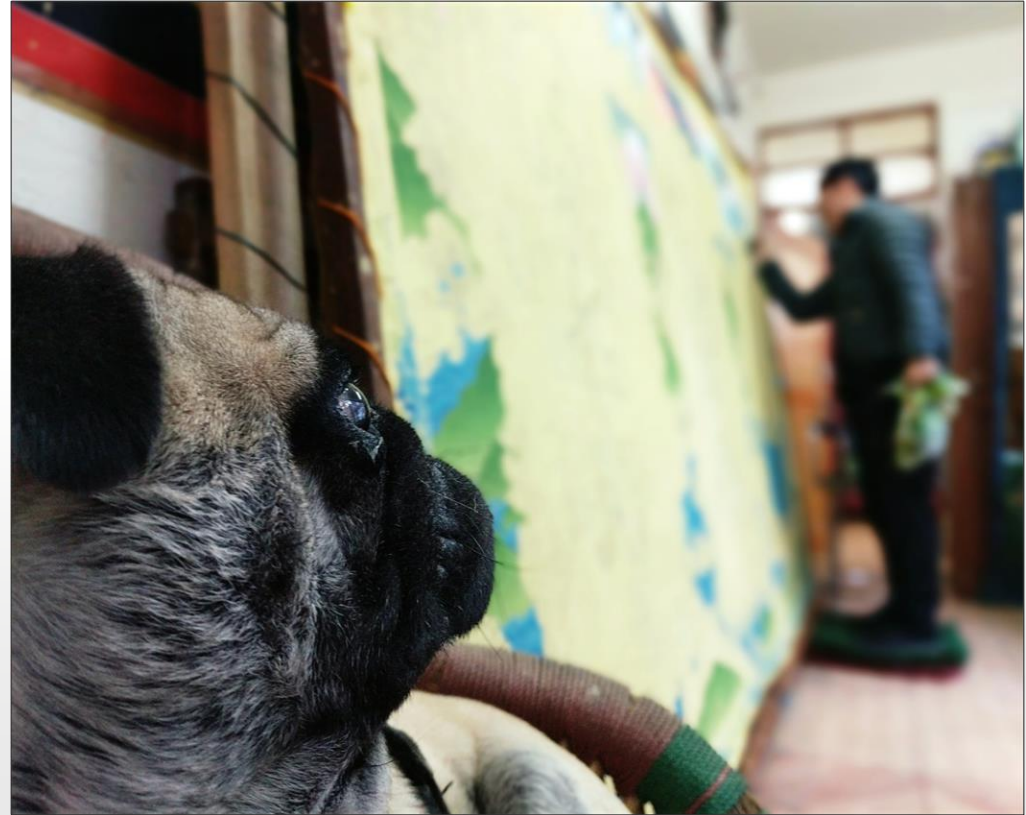
Inspire interest in learning Thangka

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Carry on teaching as long as possible

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Keep the Thangka tradition alive



# VIEW ON CONTEMPORARY TIBETAN ART

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Main goal is to preserve the Thangka tradition

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Almost never steps outside the tradition

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Exception for special commissions

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First asks: what is the intent?



# MEET KARMA SICHOE

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Thangka master – 25 years experience

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Wanted greater freedom of expression

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Finished jobs → became modern artist

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Expressionist portrait painter

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“I work with Papier-mâché, waste material...”



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I AM WHO I AM BECAUSE I AM A THANGKA PAINTER:



## LIFE AFTER THANGKA

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Integrates core Thangka concepts into practice

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Emotion → action → karma

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Thangka colors/form help translate contemporary thought

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Main ideas behind work remain the same

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Plays with form, and formless

IT SHAPES MY WHOLE PERSONALITY ”

## VIEW ON TRADITIONAL THANGKA

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Focuses on sharing, rather than preservation

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Speaks of a stigma around perfection

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Lacks elements of free expression: political dialogue

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A medium to connect with other people's emotions

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Partly centralized around understanding emotions

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“ ...you always hear if you don't paint good, you are playing with the people's faith, and that's why you are a sinner... ”



# PAINING LESSONS FROM KARMA

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# REFERENCES

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- Superman Thangka
  - [http://www.theoryofeverythingcomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/superman\\_samsara.jpg](http://www.theoryofeverythingcomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/superman_samsara.jpg)