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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Rubin Museum of Art (RMA) Presents *A Sense of Place*
Two Exhibitions that Celebrate Teens', Children's, and Families' Responses to Himalayan Art**

June 2 – July 24, 2006

August 4 – September 18, 2006

RMA is pleased to present *A Sense of Place: Teens Respond to Himalayan Art*, the first of two exhibitions that celebrate looking at and responding to its collection. From June 2 – July 24, 2006, student artworks, the products of RMA's continuing partnership with Liberty High School for Newcomers (LHS), will be on view. LHS is an English as a second language (ESL) school in Chelsea. For almost four years, RMA educators, LHS classroom teachers, and teaching artists have been working together to develop literacy and critical thinking skills in students by introducing them to the art and cultures of the Himalayan region and by having them respond to works of art through writing and art making.

The theme of this exhibition, "a sense of place," holds special relevance for LHS students, who hail from all parts of the world, including West Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. From shape poems to watercolor interpretations, the works on view are LHS students' synthesis of the themes and visions in Himalayan art - with particular focus on landscapes - with their personal experiences of their own and their adopted cultures and surroundings. The works touch on such issues as the influence of surroundings, the vast differences that distances can create, and the commonality between seemingly different cultures, bridging distance and borders.

On August 4, 2006, the artworks of third- and sixth-grade students from P.S. 134, The Henrietta Szold School, as well as artworks created by families, will replace those created by the LHS students to widen the theme of *A Sense of Place* to *Students and Families Respond to Himalayan Art*. The third- and sixth-grade student works on view in this related exhibition are the fruits of a five-month program designed to familiarize them with the art of the Himalayas through visits to RMA and close interaction with RMA educators. For many of these young students, this program was an introduction to the idea of location and surroundings.

The family artworks on view are various explorations and interpretations of a painting featuring Tara, one of the most popular female Buddhas of Northern Buddhism. Through these, and all of the artworks in *A Sense of Place*, the richness and variety of people's connections to Himalayan art, and its endless educational depth is reflected and celebrated.