Peace Comes to SU
In a Time of Turmoil

Hunched over a waist-high table in the middle of Salisbury University’s Fulton Hall Gallery last November, four burgundy-robed Tibetan monks peer intently at an intricate Buddhist design made of millions of grains of crushed marble.

Scraping gently on hand-hewn copper funnels called chak-pur, they drop streams of colored particles that gradually fill in the hand-drawn outline, a design so precise that many students say it looks like it was done by computer.

A Moment of Beauty

It will take four full days to create the mandala, a sacred cosmogram used as an object of contemplation—bringing the creative energy of the sacred dimension into the lives of those creating and viewing it. In a moment on a Saturday afternoon, the monks sweep it all away.

Dumping half into a nearby pond and giving away small packets of the fine, colored marble, they believe, will send healing spiritual powers out into a world so recently scarred by the terrorist attacks of September 11.

The exercise is meant to show the temporary nature of all life, according to Geshe Kunkhen, one of 10 clerics from the famed Drepung Loseling monastery who spent a week on the SU campus, marking the end of a semester focused on Asia by the University’s Cultural Affairs Office.

Connecting Students and Monks

Tori Groy, 19, an SU student from Delaware, was one of thousands of students, faculty and visitors from the community who streamed through the gallery during the making of the mandala, enchanted by the soft-spoken clerics.

“I was there every day, sometimes for hours between classes,” said Tori. “I was just thinking I could never work so long and hard on something and then just throw it away. But I don’t think that anybody who was here that week will ever forget them. There’s just an incredible peace around them.”

Spotlight on SU Cultural Series: ‘Asia’ and ‘Humor’

Every semester the Office of Cultural Affairs and Museum Programs sponsors a cultural series based on an inspired theme. This year’s offerings included fall’s “Spotlight on Asia” and spring’s “Spotlight on Humor.” Highlights of the year included:

- Exhibit, “Mega-Morning Calm: 14 Korean-American Painters”
- Lecture, “Feng Shui with Jeannie Marie Tower”
- Juilliard Concert Series, Cellist Yu-Jeong Lee
- Artist Residency, Physical Comic Dan Kamin
- Reading, Pulitzer Prize-Winner Henry Taylor
- Performance, Box of Light Theatre’s “Pavlov’s Clown”
- Lecture, “Blind Date: The Comedy of Reality with Comedy Writer Frank Thompson”
While in residence at SU, the Buddhist monks of the Drepung Loseling Monastery performed a week-long ceremony showing the creation, dismantling and dispersal of a mandala sand painting.

At the Gallery

The University Galleries welcomed 9,500 visitors this year and was host to exhibits including “Through the Needle’s Eye,” a traveling exhibition from the Embroiders’ Guild of America, and “20th Century American Photographers,” a collection of prints from such renowned photographers as Ansel Adams. A highlight of the semester was “Concrete Collaboration,” an exhibition featuring the work of husband and wife artists Lynn and Jennifer Hall Boggess. Taking the same subject, landscape, the two approached it from different perspectives. Jennifer’s work is of conceptual arrangements of mapping with landscape references. Lynn’s takes a more traditional bent with canvases that are huge, massively thick, multi-layered, with an almost impressionistic surface of oil paint.

Ties to a World-Class Museum

SU is home to the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, the most comprehensive collection of wildfowl carving in the world. Named for famed carvers Lem and Steve Ward of Crisfield, MD, the museum works to promote, preserve and perpetuate wildfowl art. In addition to hosting numerous exhibits, as well as an impressive permanent collection, the museum sponsors the annual Ward World Championship Carving Contest that draws master carvers from all around the globe.