The Continuously Evolving Form of Thangkas

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ABSTRACT: Thangkas are a sacred art form still in active use. All conservation efforts must be wide-awake to both the evolving form, and the continuous sacred nature of thangkas. This paper uses examples from decades of work with thangkas in the Himalayan region and in Western museums and private collections.

BIOGRAPHY: Ann Shaftel is a Fellow of IIC, a Fellow of AIC and a member of CAPC in Canada. She has an M.A. in Asian Art History and an M.S. in Art Conservation. She has worked in preserving thangkas since 1970, including work for major museums worldwide and monasteries in Bhutan, Sikkim, Nepal and Tibetan communities in Northern India.

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