Proceedings of the Forum on the Conservation of Thangkas

Special Session of the ICOM-CC 15th Triennial Conference, New Delhi, India, September 26, 2008

Hosted by the Working Group on Ethnographic Collections, the Textiles Working Group and the Paintings Working Group

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Preface

On September 26, 2008, the Forum on the Conservation of Thangkas was presented within the ICOM-CC 15th Triennial Conference in New Delhi, India, jointly hosted by the Working Group on Ethnographic Collections, the Textiles Working Group and the Paintings Working Group. These Proceedings document the broad range of topics discussed: ethics, values and approaches; conservation of living heritage; museum or community perspectives; treatments and decision-making; materials science and analyses. Contributions reflect challenges from different geographic locations (North America, Europe, Asia) and different professional perspectives (museological institutions, the private sector, private collectors, local and religious communities). We thank the authors for kindly having shared their viewpoints, knowledge and experience.

This gathering was also a unique opportunity to acknowledge and honour the outstanding contribution of Dr. O.P. Agrawal to the field of conservation throughout his long and fruitful career.

We would like to thank the ICOM-CC Board of Directors and the ICOM-CC National Organizing Committee of 2008, India, for having supported the idea of hosting this Forum. In particular, we wish to express our sincere appreciation to two colleagues from the National Organizing Committee: Dr. M.V. Nair, from the National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property in Lucknow, who provided valuable advice in the selection of speakers; and Achal Pandya, Assistant Professor at the National Museum Institute in New Delhi, India, who generously provided continual help and guidance in the selection of speakers and organization of the event, and ensured that all logistical details were successfully carried out.

Mary Ballard and Carole Dignard
Editors