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## **FRAGILE MANDALA**

**Nortse / Tsering Nyandak**

**8 – 19 April 2008**

**(Opening reception: Tuesday, 8 April 2008, 6:00 – 8:30pm)**

For their inaugural exhibition at Plum Blossoms Gallery, Tibetan artists Nortse and Tsering Nyandak will show a selection of recent works on canvas – introducing Hong Kong audiences for the first time to the burgeoning contemporary Tibetan art movement at a time of intense international interest in the region.

Nortse and Nyandak are prominent members of the Gedun Choephel Artists' Guild, named after Gedun Choephel, the inspirational 20<sup>th</sup> century Tibetan intellectual, writer and artist, who is considered by many as Tibet's first truly modern thinker. Faithful to the spirit of Choephel's legacy, Nortse and Nyandak's works fuse elements of traditional Tibetan culture with modern ideas in new and interesting ways. By dealing with issues such as the impact of the Cultural Revolution and modernization on Tibetan culture and society, their work effectively dispels the 'Shangri-la' myth of Tibet that still circulates to this day in China and the West.

Nortse was born in Lhasa in 1963. During the Eighties and the early Nineties he studied art at numerous places, including the Tibet University in Lhasa, the Central Academy of Arts in Beijing and the Art Academies of Guangzhou and Tianjin. His diverse education and his early work as a set designer are reflected in his striking mixed media works, which blend traditional oil painting techniques with high-resolution digital photography and printing.

Tsering Nyandak was born in Lhasa in 1974. Between 1985 and 1993 he lived and studied in Dharamsala, India. Although a largely self-taught artist, he spent a period after his return to Tibet studying under the Tibetan painter Tsewang Tashi. Nyandak's oil and acrylic works are characterized by his keen observations of social phenomena, coupled by the desire to communicate an intuitive emotional reality shorn of preconceived conceptual or intellectual elaboration.

Both Nortse and Nyandak have participated in numerous solo and group shows across Tibet, Mainland China, Europe and the U.S.A. These include *Past and Present* at the Christopher Farr Courtyard Gallery in L.A., *Consciousness and Form: Tibetan Contemporary Art* at Rossi & Rossi Ltd. in London, *Lontrapunte* at the Gallery SPHN in Berlin, and *Lhasa – New Art from Tibet* at 798 at Red Gate Gallery in Beijing.