



Frost Art
Museum

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

For Immediate Release

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The Frost Art Museum
Presents

The Steven & Dorothea Green Critics' Lecture Series with Guest Speaker Dr. Robert Thurman

Miami, (October 1, 2009)- The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum presents the first Steven & Dorothea Green Critics' Lecture Series of the fall with guest speaker, Dr. Robert Thurman on Friday, October 23, 2009 at 7 p.m. at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center at FIU. **All events are free and open to the public.** Dr. Thurman will speak on *Why The Dalai Lama Matters*.

Robert Thurman is Professor of Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Studies in the Department of Religion at Columbia University, President of Tibet House US, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Tibetan civilization, and President of the American Institute of Buddhist Studies. The New York Times recently hailed him as "the leading American expert on Tibetan Buddhism."

The first American to have been ordained a Tibetan Buddhist monk and a personal friend of the Dalai Lama for over 40 years, Professor Thurman is a passionate advocate and spokesperson for the truth regarding the current Tibet-China situation and the human rights violations suffered by the Tibetan people under Chinese rule. His commitment to finding a peaceful, win-win solution for Tibet and China inspired him to write his latest book, *Why the Dalai Lama Matters: His Act of Truth as the Solution for China, Tibet and the World*, published in June of 2008.

Professor Thurman also translates important Tibetan and Sanskrit philosophical writings and lectures and writes on Buddhism, particularly Tibetan Buddhism; on Asian history, particularly the history of the monastic institution in the Asian civilization, and on critical philosophy, with a focus on the dialogue between the material and inner sciences of the world's religious traditions. Popularizing the Buddha's teachings is just one of Thurman's creative talents.

He is credited with being at the forefront of making Tibetan art accessible and understandable in the West and, with distinguished art historians, has collaborated in curating several important traveling exhibitions, including "Wisdom and Compassion," "Mandala," and "Worlds of Transformation," which set a standard in the art world. This event is co-sponsored by the Program in the Study of Spirituality at Florida International University.

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About The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University

The Frost Art Museum opened its current 46,000-square-foot state of the art building in November, 2008. Over **20,000** people have visited The Museum in its new building since its opening. Admission to The Museum is always free. The Frost is an AAM accredited museum and Smithsonian affiliate and is located at 10975 SW 17th St across from the Blue garage and adjacent to the Wertheim Performing Arts Center on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday noon-5 p.m. Closed on Mondays and most legal holidays. For more information, please visit thefrost.fiu.edu or call 305-348-2890. The Frost Art Museum updates are available on Twitter (twitter.com/FrostArtMuseum) and Facebook fan page.

About the Program in the Study of Spirituality

FIU is the first university in the world to offer an undergraduate certificate program in the study of spirituality. The new program is an outgrowth of the Dalai Lama's first visit to FIU in 1999, when the Tibetan religious leader challenged institutions of higher learning to train the "warm heart" as well as the "good brain." The spirituality certificate combines the study of traditional religion-based spirituality and its practical applications for a wide array of fields, including pre-med, pre-law, psychology, nursing, fine and performing arts, business, journalism, education and a host of other disciplines for which such a credential would be of professional or personal value. If you would like more information on the Certificate program, please contact spirituality@fiu.edu or by phone at (305) 348-3909.

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