

Tom Nakashima

From Lhasa with Love II, 2005

Torn newspaper collage, glue paint on unstretched canvas

98 x 68 inches

\$25,000



The collage on canvas hangs on a wooden rod that is fed through a pocket along the top horizontal edge of the piece.

Tenzin Gyatso, the Dalai Lama, offers George Bush counsel on the war in Iraq by conveying to him the story of Yamantaka (Destroyer of Death), as Nakashima relates:

A Yogi was meditating in his cave and had arrived at a point moments from Enlightenment. As it happened, a rude group of cattle thieves had just stolen a buffalo and began dragging it into the cave. As they started butchering the animal, the Yogi's meditation was disturbed. Upon seeing the Yogi, the intruders attacked him and cut off his head, for he had been witness to their evildoing. Now the Yogi (having been disturbed when he was just fifteen minutes from Enlightenment) was indeed angered. In a fury he reached down in search of his head and mistakenly placed the buffalo head upon his neck, giving him a terribly ferocious appearance not unlike Lord Yama (god of Death). He took the knife from the robbers and hacked them into pieces. Then, running out into the countryside, he headed toward a village with his arms flailing and the sound of a buffalo's sickening snorting emanating from his throat and nostrils. At this frightful sight the villagers called forth to the Bodhisattva Manjusri (Jampel Yang) to save them. In response Jampel Yang turned himself into Yamantaka—a virtual mirror of the approaching horror. On seeing the absurdity of his actions, the Yogi (in utter embarrassment) ceased his rampage and returned to the cave.