

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Art Show Benefits Mission to Document Elderly Tibetan Refugees' Life Stories

LAFAYETTE, CA (February 6, 2015) – On March 14, 2015, the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery will present a special, one-day only exhibit entitled “Exploring Tibet through Photographs and Paintings.” This event will feature photographs by Martin Newman and paintings by Marcella Adamski alongside traditional Tibetan *thangka* paintings. All proceeds from the sale of their artwork at this event will be donated to the Tibet Oral History Project in order to sponsor the videotaping of 50 elderly Tibetan refugees’ oral histories in Nepal.

The Tibet Oral History Project (TOHP) documents the extraordinary lives of exiled Tibetan elders—the last generation to live in a free, unoccupied Tibet—and preserves memories of their homeland for future generations. This non-profit organization, based in Moraga, has already videotaped the eyewitness accounts of 226 of the oldest surviving Tibetan elders living in India and the United States.

Marcella Adamski founded TOHP in 2003 on the advice of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, who urged her to interview the elders of Tibet before their stories were lost forever. Her tireless efforts have created a collection of 226 oral histories, all of which will be archived in the U.S. Library of Congress. She is also a painter and several of her Tibet-inspired collage pieces will be available for sale at the gallery.

Martin Newman travels often to Tibet where he has captured many breathtaking photographs. He has also photographed many of the elders being interviewed by the Tibet Oral History Project and served as an interviewer as well. Both artists will be available at the event to share their experiences of both travelling in Tibet and conducting oral histories with exiled Tibetan elders outside of Tibet.

Jennifer Perlmutter teaches art classes and offered to sponsor a fundraising event for her student, Marcella Adamski, who needs to raise over \$26,000 for TOHP’s mission to Nepal. This oral history endeavor is urgent. The elders who can recount what Tibet was like before fleeing to Nepal after the Chinese invasion are now in their 70’s, 80’s and 90’s. Because they found refuge close to their beloved Tibet, these seniors will be able to describe family traditions, local customs, and spiritual practices undiluted by travel to distant refugee settlements.

Lhakpa Gyaltzen, a Tibetan welfare officer in Kathmandu, said, “There is a sizable Tibetan population in Nepal, most of whom arrived shortly after Tibet’s occupation and now are quite elderly. There are many varied and rich stories that need to be documented before we lose these elders.”

This important mission in Nepal will document the eyewitness accounts of Tibet’s vibrant culture, unique traditions, language, and cherished Buddhist religion. The interviews will be transcribed in English and accessible worldwide to persons interested in Tibet through various media, including the Internet and Radio Free Asia. Most importantly, the oral histories will be preserved in the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives in India, the U.S. Library of Congress, and 20 university libraries and Tibetan refugee communities worldwide.

The art gallery exhibit which will raise funds for this effort will be open to the public Saturday, March 14, 2015 from 2 pm to 7pm at Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, 3620 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA 94549. For more information, contact Jennifer Perlmutter at (925) 284-1485 or [jp@jenniferperlmuttergallery.com](mailto:jp@jenniferperlmuttergallery.com).

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**About the Tibet Oral History Project:**

On the advice of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Tibet Oral History Project was initiated in 2003 by Marcella Adamski, Ph.D to record the early life experiences of Tibetan elders, who were forced to flee their homeland in 1959 following the Chinese invasion and subsequent occupation. The Tibet Oral History Project is a non-profit organization committed to making the elders' oral history interviews accessible via the Internet in order to share with the world the culture and history of Tibet.

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