



February 23, 2022

Dear State Employees:

We are pleased to announce that **Commonwealth of Virginia employees and preschool and K-12 teachers (public and private) can receive free admission to the exhibition *Tsherin Sherpa:Spirits* on view at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) until October 16, 2022. Active-duty military and their immediate families can also receive free admission through VMFA's year-round extension of the Blue Star Museums program.**

VMFA welcomes all state employees and school teachers to see this captivating exhibition of paintings and sculptures by the globally acclaimed artist Tsherin Sherpa. These works of art explore the quest for individual and collective identity in a rapidly changing world.

Commonwealth employees and educators should call 804.340.1405 to make their reservations and show their employee IDs or badges at the Visitor Services Desk in the museum, when picking up their tickets. One free ticket is available per badge. Reservations for first-available tickets to the exhibition can also be made in person at the Visitor Service Desk. Tickets are scheduled to help limit gallery capacity during the pandemic. For current information about the museum's COVID-19 protocols, visit www.VMFA.museum.

Artist Tsherin Sherpa was born in Kathmandu, Nepal in 1968, and immigrated to the United States 30 years later. From a young age, he studied Tibetan thangka painting under his father and eventually moved away from this form of traditional painting to create his own works that combine Tibetan Buddhist iconography, half-human, half-Tibetan-deities and the imagery of pop culture. Sherpa's works often explore the connections between the sacred and the secular, giving visitors a glimpse into the artist's own cross-cultural experiences.

For additional information about *Tsherin Sherpa:Spirits*, visit <https://www.VMFA.museum>.

