



### **Who May Enter**

The contest is **open to all undergraduate students** who are in good standing, full-time or part-time, at John Jay on the final date for submission.

**Exceptions:** employees and affiliates of the Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation or the Rubin Museum and members of their immediate families shall be ineligible.

### **On-campus informational sessions**

**Location: Room 620, Haaren Hall 1:45PM – 2:35PM**

RSVP to [ekaylor@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:ekaylor@jjay.cuny.edu)

**February 9<sup>th</sup>:** Info Session for Students & Faculty

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Info Session for Students

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Info Session for Students

### **Prize Essay Topic**

Choose a work or set of works of art from the collection of the Rubin Museum. Write an essay about the work (or those works) that explores how the piece or pieces define or express the idea of justice. As John Jay commences its 50th anniversary celebrations, it may be useful to reflect on our history as a college and a force for social change as you come up with the concept for your essay topic. Your essay may consider any of a wide range of issues, including but not limited to: justice as it relates to retribution and punishment; justice as it relates to death; justice as it relates to the possible differences between what gods and human beings consider fair; justice as it relates to violence and non-violence.

### **Submission & Due Date**

In order to be considered an essay must be typewritten and submitted in hard copy. No e-mailed or faxed entries will be considered. The essay must be between 1000 and 3000 words long.

Each student entering an essay must submit five copies of the essay to the Office of Fellowship & Scholarship Opportunities by no later than **5:00pm on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**. The first copy of the essay must be accompanied by a detachable title page bearing the name of the student and the last four digits of his/her Social Security Number. The remaining pages of all copies of the submission must include the last four digits of the Social Security Number and *no other identifying information*. The Office of Fellowship & Scholarship Opportunities will accept submissions from February 9<sup>th</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup>. Winning essays will be selected by April 13<sup>th</sup>, with celebration to follow at John Jay's Research and Creativity Week (beginning on April 27<sup>th</sup>).

### **Getting to Know the Rubin Museum of Art**

**Visiting the Museum is required.** Last year's winners found visits to the museum to be essential to their understanding of the collections and the piece they chose to write about for the essay. This makes sense as the museum is full of helpful staff and educators, and is in tune with our mission of "Educating for Justice." Encourage your students to make the time to go if they hope to win.

The Rubin Museum offers **free admission** during regular hours for John Jay College students, faculty, and staff. The museum also has vast resources about exhibitions and Himalayan art and culture available online and on iTunesU. As we experienced great results in terms of attendance, interest and then awareness of the museum in years past, we plan to work with our Rubin Educational Partnership staff (Laura Lombard and her team) to conduct John Jay student tours at the museum (at least two weeks advance notice for reservations) and "**Get to Know the Rubin Museum**" **sessions on campus for students and faculty in February & March.**

**The Rubin Museum of Art is located at 150 West 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NY, NY 10011**

**Phone: 212 620 5000**

**The museum's website is: [www.rubinmuseum.org](http://www.rubinmuseum.org)**

### **Selection of Award Recipient**

The essays will be reviewed by a Faculty and Administrator committee at John Jay, which shall then announce the winner of the Prize.

The names of the winners will be published in the campus publication *@John Jay* and on the John Jay website.

Where scheduling allows, the winners of the Prize(s) will be given an opportunity to showcase/present their work as a part of John Jay's 2015 Research & Creativity Week.

### **Prize**

The Rubin Essay Award shall consist of:

a certificate, a one-year complimentary pass to the Rubin Museum, and

a cash award to be underwritten by the Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation:

1<sup>st</sup> prize: \$3,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: \$2,000; 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: \$1,000; 2 Special Mention Prizes: \$500 each

Awardee's prizes shall be used in part to cover tuition and other academic expenses.

If an awardee owes tuition fees, the award amount will be used to cover those fees first. The remaining funds are disbursed to the awardee to be used at his/her discretion.

Exception: If an awardee is a graduating senior with all tuition fees paid, then full funds go to awardee for use as he/she sees fit.

Attached is a guide to certain exhibits in the museum that may help you to think about its collections and prepare you to enter the writing competition. Please remember that visiting the museum is a requirement to win. The museum is full of helpful staff and educators, and is in tune with our mission of "Educating for Justice." To support your visits to the museum and writing of the essay, the college will invite Rubin Museum educators to campus throughout February & early March during Community Hour. See dates above (in yellow) and look for additional emails regarding these sessions in your inbox. For now, prepare for an engaging and stimulating experience with Art and Justice.

We look forward to congratulating you when you win!

### **Questions?**

Please contact the Program Manager, Elizabeth Kaylor, at [ekaylor@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:ekaylor@jjay.cuny.edu).

### From the Rubin Museum of Art

While visiting museum you might consider researching the artworks on page 2 as they relate to concepts of justice. You are not limited to these works, and we encourage you to investigate others, but they provide a good place to start. If you have questions, there are Rubin Museum catalogs in the John Jay library. All works can be found on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors.

To learn more about our collection, visit [www.rmanyc.org](http://www.rmanyc.org) where you will find museum resources, online interactives, and links to our audio guides at iTunesU. Most pieces in the museum have a Himalayan Arts Resources (HAR) number. When you visit the museum, please be sure to listen to our free audio guides. They provide lots of useful information about the artwork. By visiting [www.himalayanart.org](http://www.himalayanart.org), and typing in the HAR number, you can read articles about artwork and download images. **Please be sure to name the piece and cite the HAR number in your submitted essay!**

### Sample Essay Topics



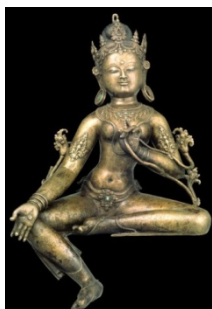
**Wheel of Existence**  
Tibet, 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Pigments on cloth  
Rubin Museum of Art  
(HAR 65356)

This Tibetan Buddhist Wheel of Existence shows how the life cycle is repeated over many lifetimes until someone becomes spiritually awakened, providing an escape from these cycles. Each one of the sections of the wheel shows a realm where a person might be reborn according to his or her karma. **How does the law of karma relate to criminal or social justice?**



**Shri Devi**  
Tibet; 17<sup>th</sup> century  
Pigments on cloth  
(HAR 330)

In Tantric Buddhist traditions, there are wrathful deities who look fearsome, often with bulging eyes, gaping mouths with fangs, and surrounded by a halo of flames. Although they might look terrifying, wrathful deities, such as Shri Devi, assume this powerful appearance to offer protection and remove obstacles for spiritual practitioners. **How does Shri Devi's role as a protector and obstacle remover relate to justice as we understand it today?**



**Tara**  
12<sup>th</sup> Century  
Gilt copper alloy  
Rubin Museum of Art  
(HAR 65315)

This statue portrays a Green Tara, a female Buddhist deity who protects practitioners from fear. She is one of the most beloved deities in Himalayan and Central Asian Buddhist traditions. Known as the "savioress," Tara protects travelers from danger and provides comfort from fear. **How might Tara provide assistance within the context of criminal or social justice?**



**Ganesha**  
India, Madhya Pradesh  
11th century Sandstone  
(HAR 65346)

Ganesha, a popular Hindu deity with a human body and the head of an elephant, is much beloved as the remover obstacles. With his strong body and keen mind, Ganesha offers strength and persistence to help practitioners reach their goals by clearing a path to fulfillment. **How might this deity be useful within the domain of criminal or social justice?**

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