



नेपाली महावाणिज्यदूतावास, न्यूयॉर्क  
**Consulate General of Nepal  
New York**

**Press Release:**

**Four Masterpieces Repatriated to Nepal**

Earlier this week the Consulate General of Nepal in New York, in collaboration with Newa Guthi New York, shipped four Nepali sculptures back to Nepal. The sculptures, which date back to the sixteenth and seventeenth century, are two gilded Bhairav masks and two stone images- one representing Uma-Maheshwara (a benign form of Shiva and Parvati) and the other Durga- reached Kathmandu safely in two consignments on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Officials of the Department of Archaeology of the Government of Nepal welcomed the repatriated antiquities, and two accompanying Newa Guthi New York officials at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu.

These artifacts, which had been stolen in Nepal around three decades ago, were recovered with the assistance from the Manhattan District Attorney's Office New York and the US Department of Homeland Security Investigations in New York, and they were handed over to the Consulate General on December 4, 2023. The Consulate General also coordinated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation; and the Department of Archaeology of the Government of Nepal in this process. Following the receipt of these antiquities, the Consulate invited community organizations and other stakeholders to collaborate in shipping these antiquities to Nepal.

Newa Guthi New York, a community organization of Nepali-Americans of Newari descent living in the New York area, warmly responded and sponsored the shipment and insurance costs and also provided an escort of two senior officials for the voyage home.

The Consulate General is deeply grateful to all involved in this initiative and for their contribution to ongoing efforts to locate, recover and reinstate Nepal's lost historical and cultural treasures.

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