



**Medicine Buddha Mandala**



# ONE



**Colored sand is prepared by grinding rocks. When it is fine enough to be sieved through coarse cloth, powdered dyes are added to wet the sand. After it has dried, it is resieved several times and packed into labeled bags.**





**The precise lines and exact measurements of the mandalas are called "thig." These are drawn with particular care according to ancient texts.**



# THREE



**Mandalas are constructed from the inside core out. Millions of grains of sand are trickled through metal tubes called "shakpur" until the mandala is complete.**



## FOUR



**Often monks will wear surgical masks to make sure their breaths will not disturb the sands and also to show proper respect to the deities of the mandala.**





**The monks are creating the 8 lotus petals and the 8 begging bowls which symbolize the 8 manifestations of the Medicine Buddha.**





**Monks continue to work on the Mandala of the Medicine Buddha. This deity is the manifestation of the healing energy of all enlightened beings.**



# SEVEN



**The monks are creating the four gates to the palaces. Each gate has 4 levels representing the stages leading to enlightenment.**





**Detail of the center of the Medicine Buddha Mandala and the northern gate**





**Monks are creating the outer wall of the mandala palace**





**After the mandala is completed, the monks chant prayers of dedication.**





**After the prayers are chanted, the monks destroy the mandala they have created. Hours of painstaking work are swept up in a practical experience of impermanence.**





**The sacred sands are dispersed into a body of flowing water as a blessing for the universe.**





**Close-up of the Amitayus Mandala. Amitayus Buddha is the Deity of Long Life.**





**Close-up of the Chenresig Mandala - the Mandala of Compassion**