

15 January 2016

To Whom it May Concern -

In February 2015, I met with Kirsty Boyle to discuss the Tibetan tradition of 'lama dancing', or Cham, at Lhundrub Chime Gatsal Ling (Dharamsala, H.P., India), where I served as Director of Education for six years. During the course of our meeting, Kirsty showed me video of her previous work and explained her plan to create a robot capable of performing the traditional Cham dances.

I believe her project to be a valuable endeavour for several reasons. Firstly, it will help bring attention to the centuries-old tradition of sacred dance, which has been endangered by the massive socio-economic changes that have occurred in Tibet since 1950. Secondly, her collaboration with Tibetan craftspeople may help introduce useful new technologies and perspectives to those practicing the traditional crafts of woodcarving, painting, and costume design, which are a key part of Tibet's unique material culture. Thirdly, transcultural exchange fosters not only the spread of ideas and technologies but the reinvigoration of native knowledge too leading me to believe Ms. Boyle's project has the potential to contribute to the Japanese art she has mastered, the Tibetan art she is studying, and the foreign audiences that will see her work.

For these reasons and more, I enthusiastically support Ms. Boyle's Cham robot project. To that end, I have provided her with rare, private video that documents the Cham dance. I will also provide Tibetan translation language help and expertise, as needed.

Though I am currently in the United States pursuing postgraduate studies, I have agreed to act as an intermediary between Ms. Boyle and Lhundrub Chime Gatsal Monastery, where the monks practice and perform the Cham dance. They will be able to guide Ms. Boyle's studies of the choreography required to create the performance of the robot and provide sound for the project.

Sincerest thanks,  
Robert Miller