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THE BATH CHRONICLE
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COLOURFUL PROCESSION: Buddhist monks took part in a religious procession through the streets of Bath at the end of six days of events at the Museum of East Asian Art, which involved the creation of mandalas, above, and their symbolic destruction

PICTURES: Lloyd Ellington



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Buddhist monks brighten streets

A colourful procession of Buddhist monks brightened up the streets of Bath.

It was held as part of the Museum of East Asian Art's Season Of Tibet and marked the end of a six-day event featuring the monks.

Eight monks from Tashi Lhunpo in India could be seen parading from the museum to Pulteney Bridge on Sunday.

Throughout the week they created mandalas – symbolic pictures made of coloured sand – at the museum.

The procession marked the traditional destruction ceremony, which sees the artwork destroyed and the sand thrown into the river.

More than 50 people took part in the ceremony, which is believed to bring good luck.

Museum curator Michel Lee said:

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"Everyone seemed very peaceful and happy at the end of it and they were also very grateful to be able to do something like that, which is quite rare.

"A lot of people who went to the ceremony had seen the monks in the museum creating the work so they would have really felt a personal connection with the experience.

"This added to the ambience of the destruction ceremony."

An Images of Devotion exhibition is still on display at the museum part of the Tibet season.

The exhibition features a collection of miniature Buddhist-themed paintings from Mongolia and will be on display until December.