



THE FIRST ZEN INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

113 East 30<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10016 212-686-2520 www.firstzen.org

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Film Series

# Blindsight

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**Starring Erik Weihenmayer and Sabirye Tenberken**

**Friday, March 9, 2012 7:30 – 9:30 PM**

**113 East 30<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10016**

*Blindsight* is a documentary about a group of blind Tibetan teenagers who scale Lhakpa-Ri, a peak right next to Mt. Everest. Their guides are Erik Weihenmayer, a blind American who has scaled all the world's seven highest peaks, and Sabirye Tenberken, a blind German-born woman who founded Lhasa's Braille without Borders to provide blind Tibetans with an education. Blindness is a great challenge under any circumstances, but these Tibetan teenagers have to contend with a bizarre form of Buddhist discrimination – they are blind because they committed sins in past lifetimes (or possibly because of the influence of demons), and are relegated to the lowest rungs of the Tibetan social order. They suffer enormous hardships and heartbreaking humiliation on a daily basis. As the adventurous band work their way up the valleys between the Himalayan peaks, they enter the last outpost of human civilization, a Buddhist monastery situated right in the shadow of Mt. Everest, where one of the younger monks is moved to tears over their plight. *Blindsight* is an inspiring film for everyone. Running time: 104 minutes

**Admission is free.**

