



THE TEXTILE MUSEUM

Rachel Bucci
Director of Marketing and Communications
202-667-0441, ext. 42

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Contact: Cyndi Spain, Public Information Assistant, 202-667-0441, ext. 17

**JACK LENOR LARSEN TO RECEIVE FIRST
GEORGE HEWITT MYERS AWARD**

March 31, 2005, Washington, DC — The Textile Museum announced today that Jack Lenor Larsen, internationally renowned textile designer, author and collector, is the recipient of the first George Hewitt Myers Award. Named for The Textile Museum's founder, the award recognizes exceptional contributions to furthering the field of textile arts. Larsen will be honored and presented with the George Hewitt Myers Award at a Tribute Dinner to be held Thursday, October 20, 2005 at the Mandarin Oriental Washington, DC.

“Jack Lenor Larsen is not only an innovative and influential weaver but an avid collector and world traveler whose designs have been influenced by artisans and textile traditions from around the globe. The Textile Museum's mission is to further understanding of textiles and the cultures that produce them. Clearly Jack Lenor Larsen's life work has also been guided by this philosophy, nurturing an awareness of the depth and richness of textile traditions worldwide. It is only fitting that he be the recipient of The Textile Museum's first George Hewitt Myers Award,” said Bruce P. Baganz, president of the Museum's Board of Trustees. Larsen was selected to receive the honor by The Textile Museum's Board of Trustees.

Born in 1927 in Seattle, WA, Larsen studied architecture, furniture design, ancient Peruvian textiles and weaving in the early years of his career. He earned a Master of Fine Arts from the Cranbrook Academy of Art in 1951, and in 1952 founded the firm that bears his name. Over the last five decades the Larsen Company has become a leading

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resource for signature fabrics for the international design trade, setting a new standard in textile design. His award-winning hand-woven fabrics of varied natural yarns in random repeats have evolved to become synonymous with modern 20th-century design at its pinnacle of style and sophistication.

In addition to his contributions as a textile designer, Larsen is a scholar, author, collector and one of the foremost authorities on contemporary crafts. He has published books on weaving, textile dyeing, art fabrics and interior design. His home, LongHouse Reserve, located on 16 acres in East Hampton, NY and inspired by the famous Japanese shrine at Ise, was built as a case study to exemplify a creative approach to contemporary living. Larsen has received numerous honors during the course of his career, including awards from the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Interior Designers, the Royal Society of Arts, London, the American Craft Council, *Design Magazine*, and the Museum of Art and Design (formerly American Craft Museum). His designs are in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and the Cooper-Hewitt Design Museum, among others. He is one of only two Americans to be honored with an exhibition in the Palais du Louvre. The retrospective exhibition “Jack Lenor Larsen: Creator and Collector,” organized by the Museum of Arts and Design, is currently travelling in the United States.

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Founded in 1925 by George Hewitt Myers, The Textile Museum is an international center for the exhibition, study, collection and preservation of the textile arts. The Museum explores the role that textiles play in the daily and ceremonial life of individuals the world over. Special attention is given to textiles of the Near East, Asia, Africa and the indigenous cultures of the Americas. The Museum also presents exhibitions of historical and contemporary quilts, and fiber art. With a collection of more than 17,000 textiles and rugs and an unparalleled library, The Textile Museum is a unique and valuable resource for people locally, nationally and internationally.

The Textile Museum is located at 2320 ‘S’ Street, NW in Washington, DC. The Museum is open Monday - Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Admission is free; suggested donation is \$5.00. For further information, call 202-667-0441.