



## THE TEXTILE MUSEUM

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**Press Reception & Tour: Wednesday, September 26 at 2:00 pm**

### **UPCOMING EXHIBITION SHOWCASES TEXTILES FROM METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COLLECTIONS**

***Private Pleasures: Collecting Contemporary Textile Art***

**September 28, 2007 – February 17, 2008**

**August 31, 2007, Washington, DC**—An upcoming exhibition at The Textile Museum, *Private Pleasures: Collecting Contemporary Textile Art*, provides unique insight into why Washingtonians collect contemporary textile art and what objects they are inspired to collect. The reasons people acquire fiber art are as individual as the collectors themselves, but all would agree with collector Marc Grainer: “These works have everything a collector seeks. They combine technical virtuosity with interesting, challenging ideas.” *Private Pleasures* is on view September 28, 2007 through February 17, 2008.

The exhibition explores both the individual preferences of the collectors and showcases the textiles on view as outstanding examples of the art form. Drawing from the personal worlds of Washington area art lovers, the exhibition highlights the various approaches taken to collect objects. Some collectors acquire and display art in order to replicate the museum setting. Others expand their collecting worlds, accumulating objects that vary from African textiles to contemporary fiber art. Still others collect as a

continuum of their lives, juxtaposing inherited family heirlooms side-by-side with cutting-edge textile art.

No matter the collecting vision, the passion for collecting contemporary textile art is a shared obsession – a pleasurable malady that visitors may find contagious. “Acquired and displayed to create a retreat from the stresses of everyday life, these private collections are usually seen only by family and friends,” said exhibition curator Rebecca A.T. Stevens. “*Private Pleasures* gives visitors entrée into an otherwise unseen world.”



*American Gotham*, 1995  
Archie Brennan  
Collection of Jane W. and  
Worth B. Daniels  
Photo by Jeffrey Crespi

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*Private Pleasures: Collecting Contemporary Textile Art* includes textile art from the mid-20th century to the present day and places the genre in the context of contemporary art history. Both wall works and sculpture are presented in the exhibition. On view are textile artworks created by nationally and internationally acclaimed artists, including Olga de Amaral, Archie Brennan, Nick Cave, Lia Cook, Nancy Crow, Diane Iltter, Michael James, John McQueen, Louise Nevelson, Robert Rauschenberg, Jon Eric Riis, Ed Rossbach, and Cynthia Schira, among others.

Featured in the exhibition are works by California-based artist **Lia Cook**, who embraces new technology in her pieces to develop imagery through the weave structure. Georgia-based textile artist **Jon Eric Riis**, in comparison, uses traditional tapestry weave to investigate questions about contemporary ideas of art and beauty. Riis incorporates precious materials, such as metallic and silk thread, with freshwater pearls and crystal beads in his pieces to attract viewers to his work and engage them in his art conversation. Colombian artist **Olga de Amaral**



*Hidden Digits*, 2004  
Lia Cook  
Collection of Judith S. Weisman

also uses metallic gold in her art but for different reasons. She combines gold with simple weave structures to reference two parts of her country's past – the Spanish Colonial architecture and the indigenous people's textile making skills. Her glimmering, eye-catching works reflect the light and her proud heritage.

While many artists use time-tested materials, exhibiting artist **Ed Rossbach** is known for his use of non-traditional materials. An artist ahead of his time, he used discarded plastic and newspapers to construct artworks long before recycling was fashionable. In both his baskets and weavings Rossbach commented, among other things, on popular culture, history and how he saw the world and man's place in it. He asserted that recognizable images such as Mickey Mouse are the iconic symbols of our time, much like mythological and biblical figures of the past, and included them on many of his works.

Scottish weaver **Archie Brennan's** *American Gotham*, also on view in the exhibition, is a classic example of textile art that intrigues collectors. Meticulously woven in the labor-intensive tapestry technique, it comments on the concept of what it is to be an American, punning on the iconic painting *American Gothic* by Grant Wood. Like the original painting, there is something strange and disturbing about the image.

Regardless of the artist's intention or technique, each piece on view in the exhibition resonates with its collector, motivating the individual to integrate that artwork into his or her life. *Private Pleasures: Collecting Contemporary Textile Art* is curated by Rebecca A.T. Stevens, The Textile Museum's Consulting

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Curator for Contemporary Textiles, and is accompanied by an evening lecture series funded by Eleanor T. and Samuel J. Rosenfeld.

### **Related Programming**

#### **NEW LECTURE SERIES! *EVENINGS AT THE TM***

Join us for a dynamic series of six lectures planned for one Thursday evening each month beginning in September. The first program relates to *Textiles of Klimt's Vienna*; the other five lectures explore topics related to *Private Pleasures: Collecting Contemporary Textile Art*. Wine and refreshments are served at 6:30 pm; the lectures begin at 7:00 pm in the Myers Room. Seating is limited. **This series, held in honor of Rebecca A.T. Stevens, Consulting Curator for Contemporary Textiles, is funded by Eleanor T. and Samuel J. Rosenfeld.**

Fee per lecture: \$15/members; \$20/non-members

**Register for the series to receive a discount!**

Fee for the series: \$80/members; \$105/non-members

Advance registration required. Call (202) 667-0441, ext 64.

#### ***Artist-Designed Textiles in Vienna, 1898 to 1932***

Thursday, September 20 • 6:30 – 8:00 pm

**Angela Völker**, Curator of Textiles and Carpets at the Austrian Museum of Applied Arts/Contemporary Art, Vienna, highlights the extraordinary textiles of early 20th-century Vienna that set the design standard for the next 100 years.

#### ***From Santos to Shunga: Influences on the Tapestries of Jon Eric Riis***

Thursday, October 4 • 6:30 – 8:00 pm

**Jon Eric Riis**, an artist who makes traditional tapestry with a contemporary twist, discusses his work on view in *Private Pleasures: Collecting Contemporary Textile Art*. Riis explores beauty, sexuality, and our politically frightening world with ironic humor.

#### ***Hot House: Expanding the Field of Fiber at Cranbrook, 1970-2007***

Thursday, November 1 • 6:30 – 8:00 pm

**Gerhardt Knodel**, artist and retiring Director of Cranbrook Academy of Art, leads a discussion on *Hot House: Expanding the Field of Fiber at Cranbrook, 1970-2007*, a survey of major developments shaping the evolution of the fiber arts field from the perspective of his more than 37 years of experience. Knodel concludes with predictions on the future of textile art.

#### ***Selvedge: The Fabric of Your Life***

Thursday, December 13 • 6:30 – 8:00 pm

**Polly Leonard**, Editor of *Selvedge* magazine, the current U.K. publication showcasing the latest unique textile trends in fine art, fashion, interiors, travel and shopping, shares her perspective on the contemporary fiber art scene.

#### ***Suited for Sound***

Thursday, January 10 • 6:30 – 8:00 pm

**Nick Cave**, an artist best known for the ritualistic "Soundsuits" he makes and wears in performances, discusses how the artwork represents his feelings about the isolation and insulation of being a black male in America. Cave's work is on view in *Private Pleasures: Collecting Contemporary Textile Art*.

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*Crafting Design: Recent Innovations in Textiles*

Thursday, February 7, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

**Matilda McQuaid**, Head of Textiles at the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, explores the importance of collaboration between hand craftsmanship and the textile technology that sends us to the moon, supports our buildings and repairs our stress-damaged hearts.

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**THE TM FALL SYMPOSIUM: THE COLLECTING PASSION**

**Friday, October 19 – Sunday October 21**

Complementing and expanding ideas from all three fall exhibitions at The Textile Museum, this weekend conference explores the history and current state of collecting from different perspectives. Participants enjoy a varied program of presentations by scholars and collectors, receptions, exhibition tours and a special "Show-and-Tell" session facilitated by Textile Museum Trustee Michael M. Seidman.

Speakers include: **Neil Harris**, Preston and Sterling Morton Professor of History and of Art History, University of Chicago; **Diane and Marc Grainer**, collectors of contemporary fine craft, past President of James Renwick Alliance (Diane) and Chair of the American Craft Council (Marc); **Harold Koda**, Curator in Charge, Costume Institute, Metropolitan Museum of Art; **Julie Schafner Dale**, owner and founder of Julie: Artisans' Gallery (1973-present), the foremost showcase for clothing as an art form; **Titi Halle**, owner of Cora Ginsburg LLC: a gallery selling exquisite and rare works of textile art from the 16th to the 20th century; and **James D. Burns**, a fifty-year collector of rugs and textiles from the Near East and Far East, and author of several books on the subject.

**Early Bird Registration (ends September 30):** \$215/members; \$260/non-members (includes a one-year membership to The Textile Museum); \$175/student (valid I.D. required).

**Regular Registration:** \$260/members; \$305/non-members (includes a one-year membership to The Textile Museum); \$215/student (valid I.D. required).

For a registration form and additional information, visit [www.textilemuseum.org/symposium.htm](http://www.textilemuseum.org/symposium.htm), call (202) 667-0441, ext. 64 or email [reception@textilemuseum.org](mailto:reception@textilemuseum.org).

*Generous support for The Textile Museum Fall Symposium was provided by SunTrust Bank, The Jacobs Company, and Diane and Marc Grainer.*

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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 18,000 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 through Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Admission is free with a suggested donation of \$5.00 for non-members. For further information, call 202-667-0441 or visit [www.textilemuseum.org](http://www.textilemuseum.org). Sign up for the Museum's e-newsletter to receive the latest information on exhibitions, public programs and special promotions!

In 2008 The Textile Museum will open a new 23,400-square-foot venue, located at 421 7th Street, NW, in downtown Washington, DC. This second site almost doubles the Museum's space overall, making possible the presentation of larger and more varied temporary exhibitions as well as public programs and an expanded shop. Read more at [www.textilemuseum.org/secondsite.htm](http://www.textilemuseum.org/secondsite.htm)

**For more information or images**, please contact Cyndi Bohlin at 202-667-0441, ext. 54, or by email at [cbohlin@textilemuseum.org](mailto:cbohlin@textilemuseum.org) or visit [www.textilemuseum.org/about/pressroom.htm](http://www.textilemuseum.org/about/pressroom.htm).