



## THE TEXTILE MUSEUM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 2, 2007

**Contact:** Cyndi Bohlin, Communications & Marketing Manager  
(202) 496-5061 or [cbohlin@textilemuseum.org](mailto:cbohlin@textilemuseum.org)

### **SHELL IS UNDERWRITING SPONSOR OF CURRENT TEXTILE MUSEUM EXHIBITION**

**May 2, 2007, Washington, DC** —The Textile Museum announced today that Royal Dutch Shell (Shell) is the underwriting sponsor for the exhibition Architectural Textiles: Tent Bands of Central Asia, on view March 30 through August 19, 2007. The exhibition features the utilitarian and beautiful bands of trellis tents, which have made nomadic life possible across Central Asia for at least 1,500 years. “In presenting this gift to The Textile Museum, Shell has demonstrated its commitment to preserving the cultural heritage of Turkmenistan,” said Museum Director Daniel Walker. John Hofmeister, Shell U.S. Country Chair and President of Shell Oil, said Shell has had a long association with the country.

#### **About the Exhibition**

An important component of trellis tent construction is a woven tent band which girdles the lower part of the wooden roof struts. This critical engineering element provides the tension necessary to brace the roof dome against outward collapse under the load of heavy felts and the force of strong steppe winds. Beyond serving a utilitarian function, tent bands are often elaborately decorated. Architectural Textiles: Tent Bands of Central Asia highlights this unique and fundamental weaving tradition. The exhibition includes tent bands made by different Central Asian ethnic groups, including Turkmen, Kyrgyz, Uzbek and Kazakh. On view are 39 objects drawn from The TM’s collections and private holdings representing a wide range of structures, colors, designs and materials.

Supplemental materials complement the textiles in the exhibition and recreate the context in which tent bands were created and used. Reproductions of oil paintings by Vasilii Vereschagin and period photographs by Samuel Martinovich Dudin guide visitors in visualizing the world in which tent bands were used. A scale model of a Kyrgyz trellis tent (“yurt”) is also on view, along with a short video from the Mingei International Museum that documents the assembling of a full-size prize-winning contemporary Kyrgyz tent. Architectural Textiles is curated by Richard Isaacson, a former member of The Textile Museum’s Advisory Council, and is accompanied by a full-color catalogue.

--more--

### **About Shell**

Shell is a global group of energy and petrochemical companies, active in more than 130 countries and territories and employing 108,000 people worldwide. Since 1907, Shell has grown and developed its business interests around the world. As the company marks a century of leadership, it celebrates a heritage of innovation and looks forward to new technologies, new sources, and new solutions to invest in the future of energy. Visit [www.shell.com](http://www.shell.com) to learn more about Shell and its activities worldwide.

### **About The Textile Museum**

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 - 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 or visit [www.textilemuseum.org](http://www.textilemuseum.org).

###

<p><b>For more information or images</b>, contact Cyndi Bohlin at (202) 496-5061 or by email at <a href="mailto:cbohlin@textilemuseum.org">cbohlin@textilemuseum.org</a> or visit <a href="http://www.textilemuseum.org/about/pressroom.htm">www.textilemuseum.org/about/pressroom.htm</a>.</p>
---