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Timeless Connections: Exploring Tapestry Weave **April 16 – August 1, 2004**

December 22, 2003, Washington, DC — Timeless Connections: Exploring Tapestry Weave will be on view at The Textile Museum April 16 – August 1, 2004. With 17 objects drawn exclusively from The Textile Museum collections, the exhibition demonstrates the broad geographic dispersion and historical continuity of one of the world's oldest and most versatile textile techniques.

Compared with other weaving techniques, tapestry weave allows the weaver substantial flexibility and freedom to create complex designs. It has been used for centuries by cultures around the globe. Featuring a selection of textiles from a variety of cultures and historic periods, Timeless Connections explores how different weavers, using materials ranging from fine silk to coarse wool and even raffia, can apply the same technique to produce works of striking diversity and originality. The exhibition includes Tunisian and Iranian *kilims*, Chinese *kesi* textiles, Peruvian tunics and bands, and Egyptian Coptic material, as well as objects from Mexico, India, Mali, and Zaire.



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Tapestry Weave

Tapestry weave is practiced in much the same way today as it was several millennia ago. The combination of two characteristics makes tapestry weave distinct from other woven structures: the weft (horizontal) yarns completely cover the warp (vertical) yarns in the finished textile, and the weft yarns do not extend across the complete width of the cloth. Instead, they turn back at the edges of each individual color area to form the desired design. These two features of tapestry weave have remained unchanged since antiquity.

Contemporary Artists & Tapestry

Today, artists continue to use tapestry weave to make vibrant and original works. An exhibition on view concurrently with Timeless Connections will explore the work of contemporary artists using this versatile technique. By Hand in the Electronic Age: Contemporary Tapestry (March 27 – Sept. 5, 2004) features the work of 14 contemporary artists using tapestry weave.

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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 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.

For more information or images, please contact Jeff Marn at 202-667-0441, ext. 17, or by email at info@textilemuseum.org or visit www.textilemuseum.org/about/pressroom.htm