



THE TEXTILE MUSEUM

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**THE TEXTILE MUSEUM'S TRIBUTE DINNER HONORING
DESIGNER JACK LENOR LARSEN A SUCCESS**

October 31, 2005, Washington, DC — On Thursday, October 20, 2005 more than 200 Trustees, patrons and friends of The Textile Museum in Washington, DC gathered at the Mandarin Oriental hotel to celebrate the presentation of the first George Hewitt Myers Award to Jack Lenor Larsen, internationally renowned textile designer, author and collector. Named for The Textile Museum's founder, the award recognizes exceptional contributions to furthering the field of textile arts. Larsen was selected to receive the honor by The Textile Museum's Board of Trustees.

His Excellency Ryozo Kato, Japanese Ambassador to the United States, and Mrs. Ryozo Kato were patrons of the Tribute Dinner. Attendees included Sam Maloof, acclaimed furniture designer and craftsman, and Joan Mondale, wife of former Vice President Walter Mondale. In addition to honoring Larsen, the event raised funds to support the Museum's varied programs. Sponsors of the event included Nancy and Carl Gewirz, Hannelore and Jeremy Grantham, Deno Papageorge, Eleanor T. and Samuel J. Rosenfeld, and Alice Dodge Wallace, among others.

The Tribute Dinner was the first in a series of interrelated programs and events that celebrated the artistry and influence of Japanese textiles. The Textile Museum's annual Fall Symposium, on the topic *Japanese Style and the Culture of Cloth*, was held October 21-23 and included Larsen as one of the featured presenters.

The festive evening program for the Tribute Dinner included live Japanese *toho koto* music and a sumptuous dinner prepared by the Mandarin's award-winning chef. Textile Museum Director Daniel Walker welcomed attendees to the event. "For many of us, tonight is not only an opportunity to pay homage to a man who has been such an inspiration and mentor; it is also a time to celebrate great artistry and the triumph of imagination and skill that has informed the international design community in so many important ways," said Walker. Following his welcome, artist, curator and textile researcher Yoshiko I. Wada provided a personal reflection on Larsen's accomplished career.

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Bruce P. Baganz, President of The Textile Museum's Board of Trustees, presented the award to Larsen on behalf of the Board. "A creative master, Jack Lenor Larsen is widely acknowledged as the 20th century leader in innovative and splendid textile designs. Tonight, our celebration of Jack Lenor Larsen as the inaugural recipient of The Textile Museum's George Hewitt Myers Award underscores the importance of the Museum's historical collection as a source of inspiration for design," remarked Baganz during the award presentation.

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 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.