



THE TEXTILE MUSEUM

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## **Daniel Walker to Become Director of The Textile Museum**

**January 18, 2005, Washington, DC** — Following an international search, The Board of Trustees of The Textile Museum is pleased to announce the appointment of Daniel Walker to Director. Mr. Walker comes to The Textile Museum from The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, where he serves as the Patti Cadby Birch Curator in Charge, Department of Islamic Art. Mr. Walker will assume his post as Director at The Textile Museum on May 1, 2005.

“All of the Trustees and staff are thrilled that Daniel Walker is joining the Museum at such an exciting and dynamic juncture. His knowledge of textiles, his reputation as a leading scholar in the field of textile studies, and his significant museum experience will be instrumental in helping The Textile Museum carry out its mission to bring textiles to a wider public,” said Dr. Bruce P. Baganz, President of the Museum’s Board of Trustees. “His top priority will be broadening the Museum’s audiences through the development of wide-ranging and stimulating exhibitions and public programs that further build the Museum’s reputation as a center for excellence in the study and presentation of the textile arts.”

Daniel Walker has served as head of the Islamic Department at the Metropolitan Museum since 1988, becoming the first occupant of the endowed chair named for donor Patti Cadby Birch in 1997. From 1975 to 1988 he was Associate Curator and then Curator of Ancient, Near Eastern and Far Eastern Art at the Cincinnati Art Museum. Mr. Walker performed military service that included intensive language training in Persian and a long tour of duty in Iran. He holds degrees from Bowdoin College (A.B.) and Harvard University (A.M.).

He has published and lectured extensively on diverse topics related to Islamic art, particularly carpets and textiles. He has made notable acquisitions for his institutions, including

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the early Turkish animal rug purchased by the Metropolitan in 1990. Over the course of his museum career he has curated 18 exhibitions, ranging from a small exhibition of etchings and drawings by Charles Meryon, the first exhibition at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art to be organized by an undergraduate, to the landmark *Flowers Underfoot: Indian Carpets of the Mughal Era* for the Metropolitan Museum, cited by both *The Art Newspaper* and the *New York Times* as one of the top exhibitions of 1998.

“I am honored and excited to join The Textile Museum as Director. It is the repository for one of the world’s most important textile collections and I look forward to working at an institution where textiles are the primary focus,” said Walker. “Scholars the world over, including myself, turn to The Textile Museum’s collections for research purposes. I am eager to work with these collections and with the Museum’s talented curators and staff to develop exhibitions, publications and educational programs that both highlight the Museum’s holdings and place them in a larger context. I am also looking forward to expanding and energizing the Museum’s diverse audiences and reaching out to new constituents.”

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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 with a mission dedicated to furthering the understanding of mankind’s creative achievements in the art form. With a collection of more than 17,000 textiles and rugs that date from 3,000 BCE to present, and an unparalleled library, The Textile Museum is a unique resource for people locally, nationally and internationally.

The Museum provides special focus in its collections 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 other contemporary fiber art in its exploration of the role that textiles play in the daily and ceremonial life of individuals the world over.

The Textile Museum is located at 2320 ‘S’ Street, NW in Washington, DC. - Monday - Saturday 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm. Admission is free; suggested donation is \$5.00. The Museum’s Arthur D. Jenkins Library is open 10 am to 2 pm Wednesday through Friday, and 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday. The Museum is closed on Federal holidays and December 24. For further information, call 202-667-0441.