



THE TEXTILE MUSEUM

THE TEXTILE MUSEUM is dedicated to furthering the understanding of mankind's creative achievements in the textile arts and to promoting an awareness and appreciation of the cultures that produce traditional textiles. As the foremost institution of its kind in the Western Hemisphere, The Textile Museum serves as a unique and valuable resource for people locally, nationally and internationally who seek information on the textile arts and non-Western cultures.

Founded in 1925 by textile collector and connoisseur George Hewitt Myers, The Textile Museum receives 25,000 – 30,000 visitors from around the world each year. The Museum's collection of over 17,000 textiles and carpets from non-Western cultures, dates from 3000 BC to the present. The Museum's collection of Oriental carpets and its collections of pre-Columbian Peruvian, Islamic and Coptic textiles are among the finest in the world. The Museum also has significant holdings of the textiles of India, China and Africa as well as 20th-century ethnographic textiles made by indigenous peoples of Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Ecuador, Bolivia and the American Southwest.

Four to six thematically based exhibitions are presented annually. Exhibitions are drawn largely from the collections, but also include other textile arts traditions such as American quilts and contemporary fiber art. Exhibitions are designed both to present textiles as art as well as to place them in a cultural context, by exploring religious, social, artistic, economic, and ecological aspects of the cultures in which they were created. A wide range of educational programming accompanies the exhibitions.

The Textile Learning Center at The Textile Museum provides an opportunity for visitors to learn about how textiles are made and the importance of their cultural and artistic significance. Two galleries comprise the Center: the *Activity Gallery* and the *Collections Gallery*. In the *Activity Gallery* visitors can look, touch and try a variety of hands-on activities including learning where natural dyes come from or how to spin wool. Visitors can also explore textiles and their relationship to tradition, economy, environment and lifestyle. In the *Collections Gallery*, visitors can see the wealth and diversity of The Textile Museum's renowned collections of non-Western historic and ethnographic rugs and textiles represented by a selection of rugs and textiles.

The Museum's 17,000 volume Arthur D. Jenkins Library offers cultural, artistic and technical information related to the textile arts through books, periodicals, videos, and slides. Students from grade school to graduate school as well as teachers, artisans, designers, and collectors use the library. The Museum's Librarian and Curators also respond to hundreds of research inquiries from the public each year at no charge.

For more information on The Textile Museum, exhibitions, programs and events go to www.textilemuseum.org