

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***From Ashgabat to Istanbul: Oriental Rugs from Canadian Collections* Continues at the Textile Museum of Canada**

The Textile Museum of Canada is pleased to present an exciting exhibition showcasing a diverse collection of rugs from over 30 private collections in Canada, the TMC and other museums. Open until April 19th, ***From Ashgabat to Istanbul: Oriental Rugs from Canadian Collections*** explores the history of rug collecting in Canada as well as the relationship between the country's private collectors and museums.

The history of Canadian collecting practices and cultural context of the Oriental rug production is visualized in a beautiful display of over 70 distinctive rugs, horse and camel decorations, and tent bands and bags from Central and West Asia – regions well known for the richness of their rug weaving traditions developed by diverse cultures and peoples. *From Ashgabat to Istanbul: Oriental Rugs from Canadian Collections* is a window into complex and ancient traditions, providing meaningful access to a diversity of Canadian heritage and a rich learning experience for those interested in Canadian history and world cultures.

The TMC is hosting a series of special events in conjunction with the exhibition beginning with ***Haft Paykar: A Tapestry of Tales from a Twelfth Century Persian Romance*** on Wednesday, February 4th at 6:30 pm. Join storyteller Ariel Belavi, whose repertoire derives from the literary traditions of Iran, Turkey and Central Asia, as he recounts the *Haft Paykar*, an epic romantic poem that tells the story of Bahram Gur, a king of ancient Persia who marries seven princesses, building for them a palace of seven pavilions.

Join us Tuesday, February 17th at 6:30 pm for ***The Art of the Anatolian Kilim***, a rare opportunity to meet Ali Riza Tuna, independent researcher and rug specialist, for a talk on the aesthetics of the Anatolian kilim in relation to Western art and artists – Impressionism and Abstraction, Picasso and Matisse. This lecture is organized in partnership with the American Conference of Oriental Rugs (ACOR).

On Wednesday, March 11th at 6:30 pm join Neil Brochu, Co-ordinator of Collections and Conservation for the City of Toronto, for ***Adventurers, Connoisseurs and Dealers: The Rise of Toronto's Oriental Rug Traders*** as he profiles the personalities and businesses that defined this unique history, shaping the city's cultural landscape.

The series culminates on Wednesday, April 8th at 6:30 pm with ***Talking Points: Collections, Collecting and Collectors*** a gallery walkthrough and reception with curator Natalia Nekrassova and the exhibition's contributing collectors. Discover the motivations that inspire rug collectors and their contributions to enhancing the public appreciation of the cultures associated with these objects.

For more information on the exhibition, events or ticket prices please call 416-599-5321 or visit our website: www.textilemuseum.ca.

- 30 -

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