

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Caitlin Donnelly, Membership & Marketing Coordinator
cdonnelly@textilemuseum.ca | 416-599-5321 x 2245

**Textile Museum of Canada presents
Tapestry of Spirit: The Torah Stitch by Stitch Project**

OPENING RECEPTION: Wednesday June 12, 5-8:30 pm
All are welcome!

May 31, 2019, TORONTO – The Textile Museum of Canada is pleased to present *Tapestry of Spirit: The Torah Stitch by Stitch Project* from June 12 to November 17, 2019.

The Torah Stitch by Stitch Project began as an ambitious and inclusive social project to create a cross-stitched representation of the Torah. Opening on the project's 6th anniversary, *Tapestry of Spirit* will be the first major exhibition for the project and will feature the books of Genesis, Exodus, and the last half of Deuteronomy. Included alongside the completed books will be selections from the New Testament and the Qur'an that reflect on the theme of creation in the texts' respective original languages. This immersive installation has been collectively executed by more than 1,500 volunteers in over 28 countries under the artistic leadership of Temma Gentles (Toronto).

Celebrating this milestone has brought me a combination of trepidation and pride. Watching the panels being installed felt reminiscent of taking my daughter to school the first day. Letting go is very powerful. – Temma Gentles, Torah Stitch by Stitch Founder and Creative Director

Visitors to the Textile Museum will journey through over 900 cross-stitched panels in three languages (Hebrew, Greek, and Arabic). The sections of verse are complemented by illuminations and embellishments created by many stitchers, both novice and expert, some religious, some secular. Their interpretation of these ancient narratives creates contemplative, contemporary expressions through word and image. The award-winning short documentary film *Stitchers: Tapestry of Spirit* (directed by Tassie Notar and produced by 90th Parallel) will play throughout the exhibition. The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated colour catalogue, available in the Museum Shop.

At the Textile Museum of Canada, our exhibitions and public programs embrace the evolution of textiles as they pertain to collective art practices and community engagement. We present Tapestry of Spirit in the spirit of diversity, the spirit of making, and the spirit of community and global communication. We welcome the opportunity to host this exhibition and share education and outreach programs within the Museum and beyond.
– Emma Quin, Executive Director

PROGRAMS

Saturday June 8, 1-4 pm | Textile Teach-in: Embroidery (Free with admission)
Wednesday June 19, 5:30-7:30 pm | Textile Teach-in: Embroidery (Free with admission, PWYC)
Wednesday June 26, 6-7 pm | Exhibition Tour with Temma Gentles (Free with admission)
Saturday July 13, 1-4 pm | Textile Teach-in: Cross-stitch (Free with admission)
Sunday July 14, 11-12:30 pm | Meet the Stitchers (Tickets \$10-20; Registration required)
Wednesday July 24, 5:30-7:30 pm | Textile Teach-in: Cross-stitch (Free with admission, PWYC)
Wednesday August 18, 11-12:30 pm | Meet the Stitchers (Tickets \$10-20; Registration required)
Thursday October 24, 6-7:30 pm | Lecture with Jen Delos Reyes (Tickets \$10-20; Registration required)
Every Wednesday in July & August from 1-4 pm | Thread Journeys: Make a textile creation at our kid-friendly hands-on program in Fibrespace

The Textile Museum of Canada is located in downtown Toronto (55 Centre Avenue) and is open daily 11-5 pm, Wed 11-8 pm. Visit <http://www.textilemuseum.ca> for more information regarding all of our exhibitions and programs.

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ABOUT THE TORAH STITCH BY STITCH PROJECT

Launched in 2013, Torah Stitch by Stitch was created by Toronto textile artist Temma Gentles. Since then the project has grown to include over 1,500 participants from a variety of religious and secular backgrounds in over 28 countries. The completed tapestry will represent over 150,000 hours of collaborative effort. It is an ongoing project; when complete, there will be 1464 stitched text panels with hundreds of illuminations. <https://torahstitchbystitch.org/>

ABOUT THE TEXTILE MUSEUM OF CANADA

The Textile Museum of Canada has been exploring ideas and building cultural understanding through the universal medium of textiles since 1975. Connecting international textile traditions to contemporary art and design, this national museum is one of Canada's most engaging arts institutions, welcoming thousands of visitors from across the country and around the world each year. The Museum's permanent collection spans 2,000 years and consists of over 14,000 artifacts from 200 countries and regions, uniquely positioning the Museum to speak to global culture as well as our increasingly global communities. A leader in the digitization of collections and interactive environments, the Textile Museum of Canada is recognized for its innovation in the development of landmark educational, research, and creative initiatives. | textilemuseum.ca

MEDIA INQUIRIES

Caitlin Donnelly, Communications Coordinator 416-599-5321 x2245 or cdonnelly@textilemuseum.ca
Zile Liepins, Communications & Design Coordinator 416-599-5321 x2239 or zliepins@textilemuseum.ca
High-Res Images: textilemuseum.wordpress.com