

## Textile Museum's Exhibition *Battleground* Tops "Best of 2008" Lists

(TORONTO) The Textile Museum of Canada (TMC) is thrilled to announce that its exhibition project *Battleground: War Rugs from Afghanistan* was named by the **Toronto Star** and **Now Magazine** as one of the **best visual arts shows of 2008**. Powerful and moving, this exhibition features 120 rugs that tell the story of the Afghan world turned upside down. *Battleground: War Rugs from Afghanistan*, on since April 2008, **closes on January 27, 2009**. Go to [www.textilemuseum.ca](http://www.textilemuseum.ca) for more information on the exhibition and how to visit.

Join us on Wednesday January 14 at 6:30pm for **Battleground Discoveries**, an interchange with curator Max Allen and Kevin Sudeith, a leading war rug dealer in New York. They will discuss the fascinating revelations and connections that have been discovered about the war rugs since the *Battleground* exhibition project opened. *Members \$10, Non-members \$12, Full-time students Pay-What-You-Can.*

### About the Exhibition:

#### *Battleground: War Rugs from Afghanistan*

Modern warfare came to Afghanistan with the Soviet invasion of 1979. After Soviet withdrawal in 1989, a decade of brutal civil war kept this area in turmoil. Now, the **global war on terrorism** continues to fill the land and sky of Afghanistan with the machinery of war. **Flowers have turned into bullets**, landmines and hand grenades. Birds have turned into helicopters and fighter jets. Sheep and horses have turned into tanks. These are the images on a new and electrifying kind of Oriental rug – the **"war rugs" from Afghanistan**.

### Don't miss these exhibitions, also part of the *Battleground* Project – closing January 20.

#### *The Kandahar Journals of Richard Johnson*

Artist Richard Johnson spent two months last summer living with Canadian troops in and around Kandahar, documenting what he saw in words and sketches. His celebrated pictorial reports for the *National Post* are a **record of military life and the relationship between Afghans and Canadians**. *The Kandahar Journals* presents a selection of Richard Johnson's original drawings and diaries from Afghanistan.

#### *Patches: Military Uniform Insignia*

Soldiers wear patches on their uniforms to identify their fighting units. These woven and embroidered insignia are often beautifully designed and reflect each unit's specialty and battlefield history. There are also unofficial "off-duty" patches that brag about military prowess or express a loathing for the enemy, offering an **insight into the mindset of soldiers on the ground**.

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For additional information, interviews or visuals:

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