



News Release

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MUSEUM OF QUILTS & TEXTILES HOSTS *AMERICAN TAPESTRY BIENNIAL 6*

SAN JOSE, Calif, December 11, 2006 – The San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles presents *American Tapestry Biennial 6*, featuring an unprecedented variety of contemporary hand-woven tapestries, from April 17 - July 8, 2007. Organized by the American Tapestry Alliance (ATA), this juried international exhibition includes 42 tapestries woven by artists from thirteen countries. The works reveal a lively interest in exploring new materials and new dimensions while addressing contemporary issues common to all 21st century artists. An opening reception will be held Saturday, April 28, 2007 from 3:00-5:00pm and is free with admission.

“This latest incarnation of the American Tapestry Biennial is an exciting and provocative exhibition showcasing a broad variety of subjects ranging from personal to political, humorous to abstract. The tapestries in this exhibition reveal an exquisite variety of content, style, creativity, and highly accomplished technical skill that honor past traditions while challenging us with fresh ideas,” said Rebecca Stevens, co-director of ATA.

Jane Przybysz, executive director for the museum, added, “The diversity and imagination of the tapestries in this exhibition shows that tapestry is indeed a powerful means of expression for contemporary artists. We celebrate the 25-year history of the American Tapestry Alliance and the weavers that continue to explore and push this technique into the 21st century.”

On April 28, 2007 ATA will celebrate its Silver Anniversary at the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles. The celebration begins at 9:00am with a Speaker’s Forum followed by a no-host luncheon, and concludes with the exhibition opening reception. In addition, a drawing will be held for a tapestry by noted Canadian tapestry artist Barbara Heller. Reservations for the panel discussion and luncheon are required. More information about the Silver Anniversary Celebration will be available at www.americantapestryalliance.org after January 1, 2007.

Shelly Goldsmith, senior lecturer and founder of the Textile Art Department at the Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton, UK and Lotus Stack, curator of the Textile Department at the

Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minnesota juried American Tapestry Biennial 6. They selected, from more than 200 international entries, the tapestries that best represent the unique characteristics of this woven art form. Included in this exhibition are renown weavers Helena Hernmark, Cecilia Blomberg, Monique Lehman, Urban Jupena and Shelly Socolofsky. Artists from Northern California include Deborah Corsini, Tricia Goldberg, Nancy Jackson and Christine Laffer. The exhibition opened June 9, 2006 at the Urban Institute of Contemporary Art, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and then traveled to the Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, Washington. The exhibition and accompanying catalog are supported by contributions from Friends of Fiber Art International and the members of ATA.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the museum will present “A New Tapestry: Weaving in the Digital Age,” a lecture by weaver, teacher and writer Alice Schlein on Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at 7:00pm. Schlein will re-examine the creation of imagery in light of current technology developments in jacquard design. On Saturday, May 19, 2007, at 11:00am the museum will present “Focus on Tapestry: Three Bay Area Artists.” Bay Area tapestry artists Christine Laffer, Tricia Goldberg and Deborah Corsini will discuss the evolution of their work and their connections to the rich Bay Area tapestry history. For both events, space is limited and reservations are required. Cost for each is \$10 for members; \$15 for non-members. For reservations call 408-971-0323 x14.

The mission of the American Tapestry Alliance is to support and promote the field of contemporary tapestry through a diverse range of services and programs including professional exhibitions, educational programs and outreach. Artist/weavers Hal Painter and Jim Brown founded ATA in 1982 to provide a network for tapestry weavers throughout the United States. In its twenty-five year history, ATA has served more than 800 members and organized eight international exhibitions. Today, ATA has over 425 active members from sixteen countries. The American Tapestry Alliance is an all-volunteer organization supported by grants, membership dues and contributions. Additional information about ATA can be found at www.americantapestryalliance.org.

Founded in 1977, the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles is the oldest museum of its kind in the United States and in 2005 became one of the top 10 attractions in San Jose. Museum and Museum Store hours are: 10:00am-5:00pm Tuesday through Sunday; closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission is \$6.50 general; \$5 students and seniors; and free to museum members and children under 13. Admission is free on the first Friday of each month. The San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles is located at 520 South First Street in downtown San Jose. For more information, call 408-971-0323 or visit www.sjqmusem.org.

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Editor's Note: For available images go to: www.sjqmusem.org/ATABiennial6_PRimages.htm

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