



News Release

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SAN JOSE MUSEUM OF QUILTS & TEXTILES OPENS INAUGURAL EXHIBITION IN NEW FACILITY

Grand Opening Celebration September 17, 2005

SAN JOSE, CALIF., August 18, 2005 – The San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles will open the doors of its new facility at 520 South First Street with the inaugural exhibition, *Traditions in Transition: Three Views of the Permanent Collection*, drawn entirely from the Museum's significant holdings. The exhibition will give visitors a taste of the great diversity in textile traditions found around the world by featuring a wide variety of textile forms, many of which are recent acquisitions.

Divided into three parts to take advantage of the Museum's three new galleries, each component of *Traditions in Transition: Three Views of the Permanent Collection* will showcase a separate and distinctive aspect of the Museum's collections. Part one will look to the past with a sampling of 19th and early 20th century quilts and woven coverlets. Part two will celebrate the abundant artistic output of the international community, including a selection of textiles and garments from the Porcella Collection, with pieces from the Middle and Far East, various Asian and Mediterranean cultures, Samoa, Mexico, and South America. Part three will speak to the Museum's vision for the future by turning the spotlight on a growing collection of contemporary works from such artists as Jeanne Gray, Carolyn Lee Vehslage and Priscilla Sage.

"*Traditions in Transition: Three Views of the Permanent Collection* tells the compelling story of textiles, a medium that comfortably inhabits the sometimes tense but very porous boundary between art and craft, one that honors the unity of form and function, and embodies the collective vision and wisdom born of centuries of cultural expression," said Curator Robin Treen.

Traditions in Transition: Three Views of the Permanent Collection will be on view at the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles September 17, 2005, through January 8, 2006. Grand Opening festivities will be held at the new museum on Saturday, September 17, 2005, from 11:00am to 5:00pm and include a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony with San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales. The Grand Opening celebration is open to the public and admission is free.

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In 1977, the first museum in the United States to focus exclusively on quilts and textiles as an art form opened in the greater San Jose area. With a broad mandate and a mission to promote the art, craft and history of quilts and other textile art, the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles provides a serious venue for all artists working with textiles as both an interpretive and an expressive medium, filling a void left by larger institutions with a narrower view of what defines artistic expression. During the 1970s, the women's movement and the feminist art movement came to full flower, urging people to reexamine the roles and contributions of women in society. A new breed of artists, often formally educated, began choosing fiber as a fine art medium, challenging assumptions about both the intent and the content of textile art forms.

Traditions in Transition: Three Views of the Permanent Collection celebrates the museum's roots, its traditions and its founders, a forward-thinking group of women who saw the need to form a museum to institutionalize the art of textiles. Textile production is present in some form in every culture. Thought to have begun in the Middle or Far East, the idea of quilting – sewing several layers of various materials together for warmth, protection or aesthetic considerations – dates back to antiquity. Textiles in every form play an enormous part in people's practical and creative lives. Looking toward the future the museum continues to embrace its mandate to consider textiles from all time periods and places around the world.

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; open until 8:00pm Thursdays. Admission is \$5 general; \$4 students and seniors; and free to museum members and children under 13. Admission is free on the first Thursday of each month. For more information, call 408-971-0323 or visit www.sjqmiltmuseum.org.

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