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28th Annual Celebration of Textiles June 3 & 4, 2006

April 26, 2006, Washington, DC — The Textile Museum will hold its 28th Annual Celebration of Textiles on Saturday, June 3, 10 am - 4 pm, and on Sunday, June 4, 1 - 4 pm. This **free festival for all ages** allows visitors to explore the textile arts and cultures of the world through hands-on activities and artist demonstrations in the Museum's garden, historic buildings and current exhibitions.

Please note: *All of the activities described below will be available on Saturday, June 3; a more limited selection of demonstrations and hands-on activities will be available on Sunday, June 4. More information is available at www.textilemuseum.org/celebration.htm.*

The festival includes opportunities for visitors of all ages to learn how to make an embroidered textile and watch experts at work, design a resist-dyed textile, or create a hat. A special activity for young hands will also be available. Visitors can see and try out a variety of looms, including a loom based on the Braille typewriter for blind weavers.

Other activities include the opportunity to try spinning wool into yarn, watch quilting and weaving demonstrations, and talk to knitters, crocheters and contemporary fiber artists about their work.

On Saturday there will be sheep shearing in the Museum's gardens and a special performance of traditional Greek dance by "Return to Origins." The program on Saturday



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also includes the unveiling of a special display of textile art by students from two District of Columbia Public Schools—J.F. Oyster Bilingual School and Benjamin Orr Elementary.

Refreshments by Mourayo, a Greek restaurant, will be available for purchase (*cash only*).

Exploring the exhibition *Harpies, Mermaids, and Tulips: Embroidery of the Greek Islands and Epirus Region*, visitors can learn about the role of textiles in Greek Island life from the 17th – 19th centuries and how they conveyed information about a family's wealth and a woman's worth as a bride. Also on view is the exhibition *Seldom Seen: Director's Choice from the Museum's Collections*, featuring 28 rarely seen textiles from the Museum's collections of more than 17,000 objects.

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE.

Celebration of Textiles is funded in part by the D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities, The National Endowment of the Arts. Celebration of Textiles is part of the Dupont-Kalorama Museums Consortium's Museum Walk Weekend. Special thanks to Mourayo.

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Founded in 1925 by George Hewitt Myers, The Textile Museum is an international center for the exhibition, study, collection and preservation of the textile arts. The Museum explores the role that textiles play in the daily and ceremonial life of individuals the world over. Special attention is given to textiles of the Near East, Asia, Africa and the indigenous cultures of the Americas. The Museum also presents exhibitions of historical and contemporary quilts, and fiber art. With a collection of more than 17,000 textiles and rugs and an unparalleled library, The Textile Museum is a unique and valuable resource for people locally, nationally and internationally.

The Textile Museum is located at 2320 'S' Street, NW in Washington, DC. The Museum is open Monday – Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Admission is free; suggested donation is \$5. For further information, call 202-667-0441.

For more information or images, please contact Cyndi Bohlin at 202-667-0441, ext. 17, or by email at cbohlin@textilemuseum.org or visit www.textilemuseum.org/about/pressroom.htm.