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Images available upon request.

Denver Art Museum presents ***Weaving A Foundation: Cornerstones of the Textile Arts Collection***

Exhibition highlights a century of textile arts in the museum's permanent collection, with the majority shown for the first time



DENVER – January 30, 2024 – Since the first textile entered the Denver Art Museum almost one hundred years ago, textile arts have played a fundamental role in the development of its collecting philosophies and exhibition programs. *Weaving a Foundation: Cornerstones of the Textile Arts Collection* chronicles how the Douglas Family of Evergreen, Colorado, emerged early in the collection as the most steadfast donors of textiles, featuring sixty objects from the museum's permanent collection, two-thirds of which have never been shown.

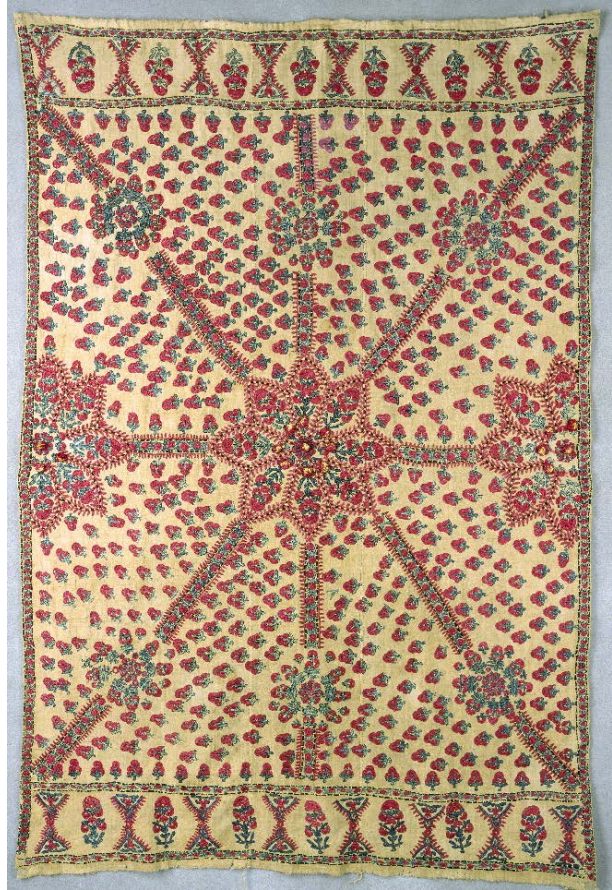
Frederic (Eric) H. Douglas (1897–1956), would eventually become the inaugural curator of Indian Art at the DAM in 1929, driven by a deep appreciation for the art and cultures of Indigenous peoples. Curated by Jill D'Alessandro, Director and Curator of the Avenir Institute of Textile Arts and Fashion at the DAM, *Weaving a Foundation* demonstrates the Douglas family's

evolution as collectors, inspired by Eric and his wife Freda's travels to India and Southeast Asia, and Eric's time stationed in the Pacific during WWII. Eric's curatorial approach, supported by his wife and parents, laid the cornerstones for a strong foundation from which the Textile Arts and Fashion Department continues to build.

Weaving a Foundation opens Feb. 25 and runs through Jan. 5, 2025, and will be on view on level 6 of the Martin Building. The exhibition is included with general admission.

The union of two civic-minded families: Dr. Josepha Williams Douglas (1860–1938)—one of Colorado’s first women physicians—and Canon Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944), built upon Josepha’s family homestead, Camp Neosho (now Hiwan Homestead Museum). An examination of their early donations reveals how the museum developed its collecting and programming philosophies and how the founders envisioned the role of the museum. This exhibition highlights a selection of the family’s donations that demonstrates their celebration of traditional and living cultures and the value of exhibiting them together.

Though the Douglas family’s commitment to the Native Arts of North America is well documented, this exhibition reveals their interest in diverse world cultures and textile traditions. Visitors can expect to see an eclectic presentation that includes textiles from Indigenous traditions across the American Southwest, Mexico, and India and Pakistan, as well as the Indonesian islands of Bali, Java and Sumatra.



Weaving a Foundation: Cornerstones of the Textile Arts Collection is organized by the Denver Art Museum and made possible with the support of the Avenir Foundation.



Planning Your Visit

The most up-to-date information on planning a visit to the Denver Art Museum can be found online under the [Plan Your Visit](#) tab. Use this page to find details on ticket pricing, public transit options and access information. General admission for museum members is free every day. Youth aged 18 and under receive free general admission everyday thanks to the museum's Free for Kids program. Free for Kids also underwrites free admission for school and youth group visits.

About the Denver Art Museum

The Denver Art Museum is an educational, nonprofit resource that sparks creative thinking and expression through transformative experiences with art. Its mission is to enrich lives by sparking creative thinking and expression. Its holdings reflect the city and region—and provide invaluable ways for the community to learn about cultures from around the world. Metro residents support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), a unique funding source serving hundreds of metro Denver arts, culture and scientific organizations.

For museum information, visit www.denverartmuseum.org or call 720-865-5000.

Media Resources

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Image Credits:

Image 1: Navajo artist, *Dah'iistl'ó (Eyedazzler)*, about 1875–80. Dyed wool; 75 in. x 53 in. Denver Art Museum: Gift of F.H. Douglas, 1946.296

Image 2: *Abochhini (woman's shawl)*, Thar Parkar, Indus River Delta region, Pakistan, before 1927. Cotton and silk with double chain stitch embroidery and mirrorwork (*shisha*); 78 x 51 in. Neusteter Textile Collection at the Denver Art Museum: Gift of Charles Winfred Douglas, 1953.29.

Image 3: *Sarong*, Pekalongan, Java, Indonesia, about 1925. Cotton with wax-resistant dyeing (batik); 95 1/4 x 41 in. Neusteter Textile Collection at the Denver Art Museum: Gift of Mrs. Frederic H. Douglas, 1973.291.

