

May 30, 2013

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SAMA TO HOST U.S. DEBUT OF CHINESE TEXTILES COLLECTION

Loretto – When the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto unveils its latest exhibition, *Stories Joyfully Embroidered: Shaanxi Folk Textiles from Northern China*, it will mark an impressive first. The exhibition features a collection of nearly fifty contemporary fabric banners that were originally shown at Beijing’s National Museum of China in the mid-1990s. SAMA’s exhibition will mark the first time the collection has been made available to western audiences.

After its initial showing, a private collector from Pittsburgh purchased the collection and brought the works to the United States. SAMA is proud to be the first museum to show these remarkable works to American audiences. The exhibition opens June 28 and will remain on view through October 12.

The large and colorful banners featured in *Stories Joyfully Embroidered* belong to a rich folk tradition that celebrates the legends and customs of ancient China. Subjects include depictions of foundational folk heroes such as Huangdi, the Yellow Emperor; and deity figures including Nuwa, the half-human, half-dragon goddess who created the first men and women. Other themes include symbolic images of longevity, good fortune, and many children, while others encompass cheerful scenes from everyday life. Together, the works in this exhibition provide an overview of Chinese folk culture that is not only fascinating, but delightfully uplifting as well.

“This is an exceptional opportunity to see a type of art that is rarely seen outside of China,” said SAMA Curator for Visual Arts Dr. Scott Dimond. “We are fortunate to be able to show it here at SAMA and feel confident that its energy and color will appeal to just about anybody, regardless of their cultural background.”

The exhibition coincides with the Museum’s upcoming *Monuments & Masterpieces* trip to China, scheduled for October 3 through 13. The trip will provide guests with an opportunity to visit some of the most popular destinations in China, such as the Forbidden City, the Great Wall of China, and the Shaanxi Provincial History Museum. Additionally, SAMA’s 35th annual summer Gala will feature an “Asian Fusion” theme. SAMA’s largest fundraiser of the year, the event features gourmet foods, casino games, entertainment, auctions, and much more. The event is scheduled

for Saturday, July 20. For information on the *Monuments & Masterpieces* trip or the Gala, please call the Museum at (814) 472-3920.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto is located on the campus of Saint Francis University. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Museum is open to the public free of charge. For more information, call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.