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BMA PRESENTS CHINESE EMBROIDERED WALL HANGING FROM QING DYNASTY

First time extraordinary textile has been on view

BALTIMORE (May 15, 2006)—For the first time ever, The Baltimore Museum of Art will display an elaborately embroidered 10- x 7-foot silk panel featuring a panoramic view of the 80th birthday celebration of the Prince of Fenyang, a legendary figure in Chinese history. Made in the 19th century during the Qing dynasty, the intricate scene takes the viewer through the gates of the palace, past dancers, musicians, and revelers, to the feet of the prince himself—all pictured in colorful embroidery on a dramatic red background.

In Praise of the Prince of Fenyang: Decoding a Chinese Embroidery, on view **June 28, 2006–February 4, 2007**, will decipher the hidden language of this extraordinary textile from the BMA's collection in an intimate one-gallery exhibition.

Born Guo Ziyi during the T'ang dynasty (618-907), the Prince of Fenyang was awarded his title after an inspirational military career during which he served three Chinese emperors, suppressed a rebellion, and recovered the capital city from an invading army. According to legend, his success was the fulfillment of a prophecy that he would be blessed with long life, great riches, and special honors. He was depicted for hundreds of years on textiles given as gifts to young men celebrating landmark events in their lives.

This display examines the rich imagery in the textile and translates the Chinese characters and phrases. It also features a closer look at the Three Stellar Deities in the embroidery that represent long life, happiness, and wealth—attributes highly regarded by the Chinese—as well as the Eight Taoist Immortals, each of which represents a unique story. Technical aspects of the textile will also be explored, such as the stitches used in Chinese embroidery.



Detail, Wall Hanging. China. 19th century. The Baltimore Museum of Art; Bequest of Eleanor DeForest Boteler.

This exhibition is curated by BMA Curator of Decorative Arts for Textiles Anita Jones.

This exhibition is made possible of the Jean and Allan Berman Textile Endowment Fund.

TEXTILES AT THE BMA

Ranging from ancient Coptic fragments to innovative late 20th-century Japanese and American fabrics, the BMA's collection of more than 5,000 textiles spans nearly 2,000 years and features objects from American, European, and non-Western cultures. Highlights include excellent examples of early American needlework, a distinguished collection of Baltimore album quilts, significant English and French printed textiles from the 18th through 20th centuries (including designs by Christophe-Philippe Oberkampf, William Morris, and Raoul Dufy), and an excellent group of tapestry-woven Kashmir shawls. In recent years, the BMA has concentrated on acquiring 20th-century works, with emphasis given to obtaining designs from recognized artists, craftspeople, and design centers, as well as fabrics created for seminal events or iconic buildings. Recent acquisitions include textiles by Owen Jones, Alphonse Mucha, and Jack Lenor Larsen. Ongoing displays of textiles are featured in the BMA's Berman Textile Gallery.

THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914, the BMA's outstanding collection encompasses 90,000 works of art, including the largest and most significant holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world, as well as masterpieces by Picasso, Cézanne, and van Gogh. An expanding collection of contemporary art features iconic post-1960 works by Andy Warhol and Sol LeWitt, as well as exciting acquisitions by artists such as Kara Walker and Olafur Eliasson. The BMA is also recognized for an internationally acclaimed collection of prints, drawings, and photographs from the 15th century to the present; grand European painting and sculpture from Old Masters to the 19th century; distinguished American painting, sculpture, and decorative arts and Maryland period rooms; one of the most important African collections in the country, and notable examples of Asian, ancient American, and Oceanic art. The BMA's sculpture gardens feature a 100-year survey of modern sculpture on nearly three landscaped acres.

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Baltimore Museum of Art is open Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.; and during the first Thursday of every month (except major holidays), 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. The Museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. BMA admission is \$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors ages 65 and over; \$6 for college students; and free for ages 18 and under. Admission is free on the first Thursday of every month and for related Free First Thursday activities. The BMA is located on Art Museum Drive at North Charles and 31st Streets, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general Museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit the BMA's web site at www.artbma.org.

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