



Jimmy Carter Library & Museum **News Release**

441 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30307-1498

404-865-7100

For Immediate Release

February 19, 2005

Contact: Tony Clark, 404-865-7109

Tony.Clark@nara.gov

Release: NEWS05-08

Chinese Embroidery Exhibit Thrills Visitors

Exhibit Opens a day Early to the Delight of Carter Museum Visitors

ATLANTA, GA.- Visitors to the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum were surprised and delighted at the early opening of “Hand to Hand: Two Grand Masters of Suzhou Embroidery.” The exhibit includes 32 pieces of exquisite embroidery by two of China’s Grand Master artist, Gu Wenxia and Yu Fuzhen. Master Gu and Master Yu are the artists who created the double-sided “Kitten” embroidery that was given as a State Gift to President Nixon in 1976 and are believed to have also created the double-sided embroideries given to Presidents Carter and Bush.

The detail in the works is extraordinary. The embroiderers take a silk thread and divide it into 48 stands. Stands of different shades are twisted together and embroidered into the silk fabric. As a result, some of the embroideries take on a different appearance depending on the direction from which they are viewed.

A centuries old Chinese tradition is to copy famous paintings with embroidery. Visitors will recognize the works of famous painters as they walk through the exhibit. The pieces include landscapes, portraits, flowers and animals.

These magnificent works of art came to the Carter Presidential Library directly from China. When the exhibition ends, they will return to China. The Carter Presidential Library and Museum is the only venue outside of China to display these works.

The exhibition runs from February 19 through June 11. There is no additional admission to see “Hand to Hand.” Admission to the museum is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors (60+), military and students with ID. Those 16 and under are always free.