



Jimmy Carter Library & Museum News Release

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Chinese Embroidery Exhibit Not to Be Missed

Carter Library Only Site Outside China to See These "Silk Paintings"

Atlanta, Ga. - It is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Thirty-two pieces of Chinese embroidery have been brought to the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum direct from China for this exclusive exhibition. The word "embroidery" does not do these magnificent pieces justice. One visitor said they are better described as "silk paintings." Because of its extraordinary detail, this two thousand year old art has often been called "painting with needles."

The exhibition is titled "Hand to Hand: Two Grand Masters of Suzhou Embroidery" and features the work of Gu Wenxia, Grand Master of China and Yu Zuzhen, Grand Master of Jiangsu Province. Grand Master Gu and Grand Master Yu are internationally known for their double-sided embroideries which have become frequent State Gifts from Chinese leaders to U.S. Presidents.

Each piece of this stunning artwork took from months to years to create. On some, visitors can see where Master Yu split a single silk thread into 48 strands to give her the detail needed. Twenty different color shades were used to create the eye color for a pair of cats in one embroidery. On a landscape scene, the seasons appear to change depending on the direction from which the embroidery is viewed. Another embroidery appears to change from night to day as the light reflects off the silk threads.

The skill required to create these wonderful pieces must be seen to be believed. It is an unforgettable exhibition. "Hand to Hand" will be on display at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum in Atlanta until June 11, 2005. The museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 4:45 p.m. and on Sunday from noon until 4:45 p.m. Admission to the museum is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors (60+), military and students with ID's. Those 16 and under are always free.

For additional information, go to www.jimmycarterlibrary.org or call 404-865-7101.

Editor's note: Additional information and images of the exhibit are available from the public affairs office of the Carter Library