

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Silk Road Artisans of Uzbekistan

Silk Road Artisans of Uzbekistan features four Uzbek artisans who produce vibrant and innovative textiles for domestic and international markets. Judi Arndt's collection of Uzbek textiles offers a cultural context for the exhibition and provides a glimpse into Uzbekistan's rich textile heritage. The fabled Silk Road crossed through Central Asia where merchants traded silk brocades, ceramics, gems, spices, and perfumes between East and West. Commerce in textiles flourished at legendary Uzbek markets in Samarkand and Bukhara. Under Soviet rule in the 20th century, Uzbek textile crafts were forced underground as the country turned to mass production. After the break-up of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, young Uzbek artisans began reviving the centuries-old craft traditions and transforming them in exciting new directions. Each of the featured artisans brings a unique contribution to Uzbekistan's textile resurgence.

Zarina Kendjaeva embroiders luxuriant suzani textiles for which she has been recognized as one of Uzbekistan's leading young artisans.

Rasuljon Mirzaahmedov weaves intricate, natural dyed velvet ikat, a lost technology revived by his family.

Fazlitdin Dadajonov exploits dazzling, innovative colors for revitalization of many old ikat motifs.

Valentina Romanenko combines suzani embroidery and ikat fabric for a fashionable line of jackets, coats, scarves, and hats with a contemporary flair.

Exhibition Dates and Programming

Silk Road Artisans of Uzbekistan opens February 18 through May, 28, 2010. Across the three months, exhibition programming will engage the public in learning about Uzbek textile traditions through lectures and hands-on workshops.

Lectures

February 25, 2010: Mary Cockram serves as Senior Director of Programs for Aid to Artisans, a prominent US-based organization involved in artisan development worldwide. Cockram will discuss the successes and challenges that ATA faces in artisan development worldwide, with special emphasis on their Central Asian project from 1994 to 1999. Many of the featured artisans in the exhibition participated in the ATA training.

April 8, 2010: Raisa Garieeva, an Uzbek business leader, served as director of the ATA project in Uzbekistan. Garieeva will share examples of innovative artisan work over the past ten years as the artisans have successfully entered international markets.

Workshops

April 11-13, 2010: Zarina Kendjaeva, one of the featured artisans in the exhibition, and her mother Feruza, also a highly accomplished embroider and dyer, will travel from Uzbekistan to offer three hands-on workshops, two on suzani embroidery and one on natural dyeing. The Kandjaevas are members of a family recognized for their natural dyed rugs and suzani production in Bukhara, where their UNESCO-sponsored school is located.