



MEDIA RELEASE

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ANTIQUE QUILT COLLECTION COMES TO MINGEI INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM

San Diego, CA - August 31, 2012

Mingei International Museum has received an exemplary collection of American quilts, donated by Pat and Tom Nickols of Rancho Santa Fe, California. The donation includes 350 quilts, made from the early 1800s to the 1950s and gathered from many parts of the United States. Pat Nickols is an author, highly regarded collector and fabric historian, and along with the quilts has provided the Museum with a related library of more than 200 volumes.

The Pat L. Nickols Collection greatly expands the Museum's holdings of early American folk art, including excellent examples of many traditional quilt types: early (pre-1850), charm, signature, string, log cabin, feed sack and baby and doll quilts. One of the quilts, a whole-cloth, indigo-dyed wool one thought to be from the late 1700s, is already on display in the Museum as part of the current exhibition ***TRUE BLUE - Indigo, Turquoise, Cobalt and Lapis Lazuli***. Beginning later this year, others will be shown in small, focused exhibitions in the Museum's Joanne C. and Frank R. Warren Theater Gallery.

"It was important to me that my collection stay on the west coast," said Pat Nickols. "I am extremely pleased that the majority of it is in San Diego, now part of a respected museum like Mingei International. I know the quilts will be preserved, cared for, and most importantly, displayed for Mingei visitors to enjoy."

"We are honored and fortunate to receive so substantial a portion of the Pat L. Nickols Collection," said Rob Sidner, museum director. "We recognize this represents over 30 years of passionate study and collecting and look forward to sharing these important and inspiring fabric works with the public."

This gift marks the third significant collection donated to Mingei International Museum within the last two years: in 2010 collector Billie Moffitt gave the Museum 220 Japanese beckoning cat sculptures (maneki neko), and in 2011 The Bead Museum of Glendale Arizona closed and donated its entire collection to Mingei International.

ABOUT PAT L. NICKOLS

Pat's expertise and experience includes quilt and fabric research, published articles, quilt making and design, teaching, lecturing and creating authentic reproduction prints for use today. She has taught throughout the United States and in Paris, covering subjects such as the creation of 1840s style quilts; color and design; quilt documentation and dating antique fabric. Her interest in antique quilts, with their beautifully designed prints, led to her long-term study of historic fabric.

ABOUT MINGEI INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM

Located in San Diego's Balboa Park, Mingei International Museum collects, preserves and exhibits folk art, craft and design from all eras and cultures of the world. A non-profit institution funded by admission, individuals, and community support, the Museum offers inspiring exhibitions and diverse educational programs to more than 100,000 visitors a year. Institutional support for Mingei International Museum is provided by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

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