

# Press Release



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ***Newark Museum Asian Art Exhibition to Showcase Textile Techniques Dramatic Threads: Textiles of Asia March 14, 2018-February 2019***

NEWARK – Objects ranging from theatrical and political costumes to architectural and decorative textiles will be featured in an upcoming exhibition at the Newark Museum that showcases a wide range of making techniques from throughout the Asian continent. *Dramatic Threads: Textiles of Asia* opens March 14 and is on view through February 2019.

Objects in *Dramatic Threads* range in date from the 19th century to the early 20th century and most are on view for the first time. World-renowned embroidery scholar Young Yang Chung, Ph.D., consulted with the Museum about the works featured in this exhibition, which was curated by Katherine Anne Paul, Ph.D., Curator of the Arts of Asia. Works featured in *Dramatic Threads* can be found throughout the Asian galleries — China, Japan, Korea, Nepal and Tibet — and are identified by a unique text label.

The ancient techniques used to create the pieces in the exhibition have been passed down virtually unchanged to modern embroiderers in both the East and the West, and decorate all manner of textiles. The imagery communicates ideas through meaningful patterns that express cultural identity and serve lifestyle needs. Different embroidery stitches may be read like signatures, revealing where they were sewn. Woven cloth reflects varied making methods including virtuoso brocades, slit-tapestry, twill and plain weaves. The materials used—gold, silk, wool, cotton—all hold keys to understanding regional access to resources; weighing the value and desirability of luxury imports compared with local production. Cultural preferences for specific color palettes and subject matter intertwine with differentiated techniques and underscore distinct regional histories. However, many textiles also demonstrate shared purpose—as gift covers, interior decorations and dress worn for special occasions.

“This installation supports the Museum’s ongoing conservation efforts that require the rotation of fragile objects to protect them for future generations,” Paul said.

For additional information, follow the Museum on Facebook at [facebook.com/newark.museum](https://facebook.com/newark.museum) or Twitter at [twitter.com/newarkmuseum](https://twitter.com/newarkmuseum); or by visiting [www.newarkmuseum.org](http://www.newarkmuseum.org).

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