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SHANGRI LA MUSEUM REOPENS TO THE PUBLIC WITH NEW TOUR EXPERIENCE AND NEW GALLERY

HONOLULU, HI September 30, 2021 – The Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture & Design today announced it would reopen to the general public on October 7, 2021. The highly anticipated reopening will feature a new, self-guided tour experience and unveil the museum's latest exhibition space, the Qajar Gallery.

"Access to history, art and culture is essential for a healthy society and we are pleased to offer a fresh new visitor experience that responds to what the public expects and wants – flexibility to explore a place of sublime beauty, inspiration and respite," said Dr. Konrad Ng, Executive Director of Shangri La Museum.

The reopening includes a new gallery showcasing a rare collection of works from the Qajar Empire of Iran during the 18th & 19th centuries. Shangri La holds one of the most extraordinary collections in the world from the era, which includes elegant glassware, colorful ceramics, fine jewelry, oil paintings and elaborate metalwork.

"Doris Duke was foresighted in her interest and appreciation for the Qajar era," said Dr. Leslee Michelsen, Curator of Collections and Exhibitions. "Art from this period was rarely collected in the early 20th century, and Duke's selections highlight intimate and personal objects that shed light on this understudied history."
The exhibition also features a hand-woven carpet commissioned from Turquoise Mountain, a non-profit founded in Afghanistan that supports artisanal entrepreneurs and traditional crafts. Design of the piece was inspired by carpets from the Qajar era in Shangri La's collection.

"The exceptional carpet on display in the Qajar Gallery was hand-knotted by women weavers in northern Afghanistan," said Dr. Thalia Kennedy, Creative Director at Turquoise Mountain and 2011 Shangri La Scholar-in-Residence. "This commission highlights the important role institutions like Shangri La play as patrons and advocates to revive artistic traditions, promote jobs and support traditional crafts in the region."

Tours of Shangri La are operated in collaboration with the Honolulu Museum of Art (HoMA) and run Thursday – Saturday at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. Reservations are required and can be booked online at honolulumuseum.org beginning Friday, October 1. Complimentary tours for kama'a'ina will be available Thursday, October 7 – Saturday, October 16 ($5 processing fee included). Tours are limited to a capacity of 12 persons or less under Hawaii State Guidelines to ensure the health and safety of all visitors and staff. Masks and proof of vaccination or negative Covid-19 test are required.

The Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture & Design enriches public understanding of the art and design of Islamic cultures in new and inspiring ways through exhibitions, digital and educational initiatives, public programs and guided tours, and community partnerships. Shangri La is a program of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation through the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.

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