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News, Comments & Letters



Following the Indian thread

The V&A's autumn blockbuster 'The Fabric of India' will celebrate the variety, virtuosity and incomparable richness of India's textile traditions. The exhibition (3 October 2015-10 January 2016) is the highlight of the V&A India Festival, which marks $twenty-five\,years\,since\,the\,opening\,of$ the Nehru Gallery of South Asian Art. A number of objects will be on display for the first time, including a vast appliqué wall hanging from Gujarat that was discovered abandoned on a New York sidewalk in 1994. Read curator Rosemary Crill's preview in the next issue of HALI.

Hunting and gathering carpets

Alberto Levi Gallery, Milan, has announced a series of yearly web and gallery exhibitions titled 'Hunting and Gathering', aimed at restoring the fundamental role of the gallerist. 'The role of the antique rug dealer has changed dramatically over the last few years', says Alberto Levi. 'With the advent of the internet many transactions now take place online, ranging from emails to eBay to prestigious auction houses. Borrowing the term from archaeology, where it is used to describe the human mode of subsistence in the Palaeolithic, it depicts what we dealers do best – travelling the world, not only virtually, hunting for the best pieces.' The inaugural edition, which will include this unusual two niche Yarkand rug, is dedicated to the weavings of China, Tibet and East Turkestan, and opens on 6 August. Each entry will feature a structural analysis and high-resolution images of the front and back.



Northwest to Santa Fe

The Antique American Indian Art Show in Santa Fe will this year be accompanied by a special exhibition of Chilkat blankets. 'Chilkat Blankets: Artistic Masterpieces' at El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe runs 17-20 August, and comprises over a dozen of the rare textiles. Woven on a vertical loom by the peoples of the northwest coast area (Vancouver Island to Yakutat, Alaska), a blanket can take a full year to produce. The decoration typically consists of stylised animals. birds, fish and whales. Their use was reserved for high-ranking people on ceremonial occasions.

Belated Florentine insights

Hans König writes: HALI 182 contained a report on the Stromata workshop at the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, Florence. Unfortunately, I omitted a piece of information: 'When the workshop ended, many of the participants had discovered new aspects of their own fields of research. An interactive exchange of views and experiences started between scholars of different disciplines; there was a cross-fertilisation that promoted joint ventures between two or more partners. In fact, the workshop opened the door for new initiatives of various kinds.'