



Textile Museum of Canada

30 YEARS Celebrating Cloth, Culture and Art

MEDIA RELEASE

## THE TEXTILE MUSEUM OF CANADA REACHES OUT TO AT-RISK YOUTH VIA DAREARTS

TORONTO - The Textile Museum of Canada (TMC) has developed a program beginning in October of 2006 called *Art for Youth- Art for Life*, providing free access to the TMC for thousands of disadvantaged school children. **DAREARTS** children from 8 schools will be the inaugural school group to visit the Textile Museum: **Wednesday, October 25, 2006.**

Made possible by the generous support of **Scotiabank** as well as over 60 members and friends of the TMC, the goal of this initiative is to break down the financial barriers that can exist between at-risk youth and involvement in arts and culture. Children who come from disadvantaged communities are most at-risk for growing into adults without an appreciation or interest in art, history, or culture enquiry. By exposing students to artwork and cultural dialogue that is not available in the traditional classroom we are allowing students to think creatively, laterally and globally while simultaneously building on the foundations of their schooling. As the name implies, *Art for Youth – Art for Life* aims to turn these at-risk youth into life-long learners and cultural enthusiasts.

*Art for Youth – Art for Life* offers engaging and inspiring curriculum-linked gallery tours led by experienced, professional educators. These two-hour tours will focus on mathematics, contemporary visual arts, world issues, language arts and expressive movement. Visiting students will also participate in creative hands-on activities with each student designing and producing their own textile artworks.

The Textile Museum has partnered with the Toronto District School Board and the **DAREarts** Foundation to identify the students most in need of this program. **DAREarts** which stands for Discipline, Action, and Responsibility in Education, was founded to help Canadian children find positive alternatives to negative influences in their communities. Together with Scotiabank and **DAREarts**, the TMC will continue to break down the barriers that can exist between at-risk youth and our enriching museum environment. Ultimately, experiences with art and culture will fundamentally change individual lives, as developing an appreciation for museums and art galleries when one is young is the determining factor that results in life-long participation.

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For more information, interviews and images please contact:

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Canada Council for the Arts  
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**Museum Hours**  
Open 7 days a week 11 am – 5 pm  
Wednesdays 11 am – 8 pm



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