

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WEARING WEALTH AND STYLING IDENTITY:  
TAPIS FROM LAMPUNG, SOUTH SUMATRA, INDONESIA**

April 11 through August 31, 2009 | Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College



HANOVER, NH— This exhibition and its accompanying book initiate a historical chronicle of *tapis* from the earliest mention of this textile type to the roles it fulfills in the twenty-first century, laying bare the complex networks of trade and the negotiation of cultural iconographies that have informed the making of this spectacular art. Located between the two maritime routes connecting East and West Asia, Sumatra, the fabled Isle of Gold was for centuries the source for much of the world's pepper. In the southern tip of Sumatra, the peoples of Lampung, or "Pepperland," poured the profits of their trade into ceremonial materials and adornments. The ornate tubular dresses known as tapis were hand-woven from cotton and silk threads, colored with ancestral dye recipes, embellished with gold- and silver-wrapped threads, embroidered with silk or pineapple-fiber threads, and appliquéd with mirrors and mica. These sumptuous garments communicated a family's global contacts, social station, and clan identity.

Guest curated by Dr. Mary-Louise Totton, assistant professor of art history, Frostic School of Art, Western Michigan University, the exhibition combines over fifty *tapis* from the Stephen A. Lister Collection with contextual archival and contemporary photographs. Dr. Totton will give the opening lecture about *tapis* on Friday, April 17th in Arthur M. Loew Auditorium. Opening remarks will be given by H.E. Sudjadnan Parnohadiningrat, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the United States. A reception will follow in the Kim Gallery.

In addition, a round-table discussion on "Cultures of Cloth in Sumatra, Indonesia" will take place on April 18th with Susan Rodgers, College of the Holy Cross; Fiona Kerlogue, Horniman Museum; Miranda Howard and Mary-Louise Totton, Western Michigan University. These three specialists will present on their own research into textile arts and the textile traditions of Indonesia. A discussion of Wearing Wealth and Styling Identity, moderated by Dr. Totton, will follow.

Dr. Totton's text of the same title will be published by the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College and available through the University Press of New England in spring 2009.

This exhibition was organized by the Hood Museum of Art and is generously supported by the Evelyn A. J. Hall Fund and the William B. Jaffe and Evelyn A. Jaffe Hall Fund. The exhibition book will be available in the museum gallery or upon request by calling (603) 646-2808.

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Image Caption: Detail of an embroidered band on a *tapis* ceremonial sarong from Indonesia. The composition depicts a ship, a powerful metaphor of wealth and status in this maritime region.

Unknown artist, Lampung Province, Sumatra, Indonesia, 19th century, silk and cotton cloth with gold-wrapped thread, mirrors, and red wool. Lister Family Collection. Photo © 2004 by John Bigelow Taylor.

**About the Hood**

The Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College is an accredited member of the American Association of Museums (AAM) and is cited by AAM as a national model. The Hood is located in the heart of downtown Hanover, N.H., in an award-winning building designed by Charles Moore. With more than 60,000 objects in its collection, the purpose of the Hood Museum of Art is to expand and develop visual literacy for all of its visitors.

**General Information**

Admission is free of charge. Operating hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 12 noon to 5 p.m. The Hood Museum of Art Gift Shop offers items inspired by the collections and exhibitions. The Hood is wheelchair accessible and offers assistive listening devices. For further accessibility requests, please contact the museum. For more information about the collections, exhibitions, and programs, visit [www.hoodmuseum.dartmouth.edu](http://www.hoodmuseum.dartmouth.edu)