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### **Pacific Asia Museum Announces New Exhibition *Marking Transitions: Ceremonial Art in Indonesia***



September 19, 2012—Pacific Asia Museum is pleased to announce the new exhibition *Marking Transitions: Ceremonial Art in Indonesia* on view November 2, 2012 through March 24, 2013.

*Marking Transitions: Ceremonial Art in Indonesia* will provide visitors a chance to experience the connections between art and ritual in the lives of Indonesians through objects created for a range of uses. Rituals remain an integral part of everyday life in many regions of Indonesia, and objects such as finely woven textiles and elegantly prepared knives carry great significance in

both ceremony and performance. This exhibition will illuminate those meanings along with a focus on the extraordinary craftsmanship embedded in each object.

One such object that will be on view is a *tampan* cloth from the Lampung region of southern Sumatra (pictured at top). This region became quite wealthy as a major producer of pepper along the spice trade routes, and this wealth along with the broad range of cultural influences is reflected in the rich textiles produced there. *Tampan* are small, ceremonial cloths that signify transition at many ceremonies, including weddings, births and funerals, and are often displayed or used to wrap food or other gifts. The cloth would also serve as a seat for elders or other prominent figures, or would be tied to the poles of new homes. The ship motif on this particular *tampan* is common to coastal regions along major trade routes, and further illustrates both transition and prosperity.

Together with other ceremonial objects, *Marking Transitions* will trace Indonesia's rich material cultural tradition. The exhibition will be supported by a variety of related programs designed to engage all ages.

This exhibition has been made possible in part by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and Sid and Betsey Tyler.

Image: *Tampun* (Ceremonial cloth), Indonesia, Sumatra, Lampong district, Late 19th c., Cotton, silk, metallic threads, natural dyes, Gift of the Hon. And Mrs. Jack Lydman, 1991.47.91

### **About Pacific Asia Museum**

Pacific Asia Museum is among the few institutions in the United States dedicated exclusively to the arts and culture of Asia and the Pacific Islands. The museum's mission is to further intercultural understanding through the arts of Asia and the Pacific Islands. Since 1971, Pacific Asia Museum has served a broad audience of students, families, adults, and scholars through its education and outreach programs.

Pacific Asia Museum is located at 46 North Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, California 91101. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 6 pm. Admission is \$9 general, \$7 students/seniors, and free for museum members and children under 12. Admission is free every 4th Friday of the month.

For more information visit [www.pacificasiamuseum.org](http://www.pacificasiamuseum.org) or call (626) 449-2742.

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