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Pacific Asia Museum Announces New Exhibition *Ralli Quilts: Contemporary Textiles from Pakistan*



November 10, 2013—Pacific Asia Museum announced today the new exhibition *Ralli Quilts: Contemporary Textiles from Pakistan* which will be on view from December 20, 2013 through March 2, 2014 in the Focus Gallery.

Ralli Quilts: Contemporary Textiles from Pakistan features quilts made by women in the areas of Sindh, Pakistan, western India, and surrounding areas. This exhibition helps expand the conception of contemporary Asian art by looking at their form, color and pattern rather than solely how they are made and what they are used for.

Ralli quilts are made in Pakistan and western India by women artisans, many of whom do not travel out of their own village without male accompaniment. Requiring almost 200 hours to create, these *ralli* quilts are richly patterned textiles made of cloth from discarded fabrics. The cloth is torn or cut into geometric shapes, then stitched together on a palm mat using a large needle and cotton thread with patchwork, applique and embroidery techniques. Traditionally, *ralli* quilts were used as a form of currency, and would be included in a woman's dowry. Today, they have become increasingly popular on the commercial market as their striking color juxtapositions and graphic compositions speak to larger trends in textile arts.

This exhibition follows the residency of *ralli* artist Naina, who visited Pacific Asia Museum in July 2013 to demonstrate the creation of these textiles. Born and raised in a small village in Pakistan, Naina has spent decades creating *ralli* alongside other women from her village through Lila Handicrafts, a Pakistani cooperative of women from a small village in the Thar Desert region of Pakistan, Tehsil Diplo. Selected quilts by Naina will be for sale in the Pacific Asia Museum store while the exhibition is on view. In addition, the book *Ralli Quilts: Traditional Textiles from Pakistan and India* by Patricia Ormsby Stoddard, Ph.D. will be available for purchase.

This exhibition is generously supported by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Toyota Financial Services and the Pasadena Art Alliance.

About Pacific Asia Museum

Pacific Asia Museum is one of 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 exhibitions and 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 \$10 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 or call (626) 449-2742.

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