

## MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF CARPETS PIETRE MILIARI NELLA STORIA DEL TAPPETO

Milan, July 2006. From the 14 October until 11 November Gallery Moshe Tabibnia presents MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF CARPETS. The exhibition will feature more than thirty classical period carpets dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries that originate from several geographic areas: Anatolia, Caucasus, China, Egypt, India, Persia, Syria. For the epoch to which they belong, their exceptional state of conservation, and their details, they are among the rarest examples of well known typologies such as Holbein, Lotto, Star Ushak, Paramameluks, Mameluks, Damascus, Cairene, Kashan, Polonaise, Isfahan, Dragon carpets, and more.

The spotlight won't be on a specific century or region, rather 15<sup>th</sup> century carpets will be taken as a starting point and a key to interpret and understand the later developments of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The attention will be drawn on the refined warps and wefts of the most important dynasties and visitors will have an opportunity to admire a wide range of exemplars belonging to different epochs, styles and regions.

The event is part of an ambitious research and exhibition project that Moshe Tabibnia undertook several years ago and fits perfectly with past shows that won high praise for the care and attention with which they were curated (*Classical Oriental Carpets of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries* held in 1999 is only one of several examples). The 2006 exhibition is a new high point in this endeavour for the exceptional quality, rarity and variety of the exhibited pieces.

This is the first exhibition in the recently refurbished galleries that were inaugurated last April. The renovated premises comprise of new and more spacious exhibition galleries, a library, a research center, caveaux and a laboratory. The commercial space has evolved into a new concept: a gallery-museum, a conservation and research center, where each work can be adequately enhanced, studied and exhibited.

This event presents for the first time in a single venue to the general public, to specialists and to scholars, exemplars that were acquired and once belonged to some of the most famous collections in the world (such as Aita, Habsburg, Bernheimer, Bismark, Paul Getty, Rockefeller, Weissberger, Wher). Some of these works are already well known and well documented but have not been accessible for the past few years. Others still are a world première, they were discovered thanks to Moshe Tabibnia's scrupulous research and frequent trips which he led with inexhaustible curiosity and tireless enthusiasm and will be shown here for the first time.

This event was conceived for the usual audience of collectors and connoisseurs, yet it is also open to scholars and universities. For this purpose the gallery has chosen to avail itself of the expertise and

competence of one of the leading scholars in this field, Dr. Jon Thompson (Beattie Fellow, History of Carpets, Ashmolean Museum & Fellow, Faculty of Oriental Studies Oxford).

More than an exhibition catalogue MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF CARPETS is a monograph, enriched by more than 150 illustrations, which traces the most fundamental steps in the history of carpets. Published by Moshe Tabibnia, it aims to become a reference work for the art lovers and specialists of this discipline alike.

The volume took several months to research. Studies were led by the Gallery's research team who investigated the history of each piece, reconstructing its art-historical context, finding its literature, and identifying closely related exemplars. We'd like to remind that the research department has already at its disposal a library that counts more than 4000 volumes and an impressive photo archive which is more than 16.000 images rich. It is also working in close cooperation with several international art institutions, research centers, laboratories and museums.

The exhibition will be accompanied by an intense schedule of educational programs designed to reach out to the general public to attract and encourage new interest in a specialist field that is usually considered elitist. Dr. Jon Thompson will be the main guest speaker of a lecture series which will be planned in concomitance with the exhibit.

English Press Office:

Karin Dobbin  
karin@moshetabibnia.com  
tel. +39 02 805 15 45  
fax +39 02 805 15 49

Our offices will be closed for summer holidays from August 5<sup>th</sup> to August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006.  
For urgent enquiries during this time Karin Dobbin may be reached on kddobbin@aol.com