



Invitation to the Media Conference
10 June 2010, 11 a.m.
Afghanistan. Surviving Treasures
A selected Collection of the National Museum of Afghanistan
11 June – 3 October 2010

For the first time in Germany, the Art and Exhibition Hall presents Afghanistan's legendary national treasure which survived years of civil war and destruction. The gold, silver and ivory objects bear witness to the significance of the kingdom of Bactria in ancient Afghanistan, a thriving crossroads on the Silk Road that became a melting pot of a wide range of cultural influences from both East and West.

Highlights of the exhibition are finds from four important archaeological sites. From the Bronze Age site of Tepe Fullol in ancient Bactria (c. 2000 BC) come delicately wrought gold and silver objects – the oldest pieces in the exhibition. From Ai Khanum, a city founded by Alexander the Great (4th-2nd century BC), come objects that illustrate the tremendous reach and impact of Graeco-Hellenism. At the heart of the exhibition are the magnificent gold finds from a group of six graves discovered at Tillya Tepe (1st century AD). The presentation closes with the outstanding finds from Begram.

230 of the most valuable items can now be presented in Bonn which will be the only station in Germany. The objects shown in this exhibition were long thought to have been stolen or destroyed by the Taliban. In view of the unstable security situation towards the end of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the late 1980s, a few forward-thinking members of staff of the Kabul National Museum hid the most important pieces of the collection, shielding them from the decades of disorder and armed conflict that followed. It was not until after the fall of the Taliban regime in 2004 that the vaults of the presidential palace of Kabul were opened and the treasure could once more be shown.

**The Media Conference will be held on 10 June 2010 at 11 a.m. in the
Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany (admission 10 a.m.)**

Participants:

- Robert Fleck, *Director, Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany*
- Omar S. Sultan, *Deputy Minister of Cultural Affairs, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan*
- Omar Khan Massoudi, *Director, National Museum Kabul, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan*
- Pierre Cambon, *Curator, Musée Guimet, Paris, Conservateur en Chef*
- Susanne Annen, *Exhibition Manager, Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany*
- Sven Bergmann, *Press Officer, Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany*

Please register by fax: +49 (0)228 9171-211 or e-mail: presse@kah-bonn.de. Extensive essays and photo material are available at the press office or www.bundeskunsthalle.de. Please direct all requests for interviews to this office.

The exhibition will be opened on 10 June 2010 at 7 p.m. by Dr. Guido Westerwelle, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs.

We are looking forward to your visit.

Sven Bergmann
Head of Corporate Communications / Press Officer

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Attendance **YES**

Please send information **YES**

We ask you for notable naming of the medium and the editorial office by whose order you would like to take part in the Media Conference.

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Preview

Byzantium
Splendour and Everyday life **till 13 June 2010**

Liam Gillick
One long walk... Two short piers... **till 8 August 2010**

Thomas Schütte **15 July – 1 November 2010**

VIBRACIÓN. Modern Art from Latin America
The Ella Fontanals-Cisneros Collection **17 September 2010 – 30 January 2011**

Napoleon and Europe. Dream and Trauma **17 December 2010 – 25 April 2011**