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**CROW COLLECTION OF ASIAN ART UNVEILS NEW
ENTRANCE, LOBBY AND GROUND FLOOR GALLERY;
DEBUTS PERMANENT INSTALLATION OF JAPANESE
ARMOR AND MORE**

Fierce Loyalty: A Samurai Complete Opens October 25th

DALLAS (August 25, 2014) – The Crow Collection of Asian Art officially reopens the ground-floor galleries of the museum this fall for the dual openings of two exciting exhibitions October 25, 2014; the previously announced *Mary Baskett Collection of Japanese Fashion* and another exciting Japanese exhibition, *Fierce Loyalty: A Samurai Complete* that includes a major acquisition in the form of an Edo period (1603–1868) suit of Samurai Armor, displayed in a new gallery created specifically for its installation.

The new Samurai Gallery space, now positioned approximately in the footprint that formerly served as the Crow Collection of Asian Art's lobby, has been completely remodeled specifically for this exciting new exhibition of permanent collection works. Other construction changes include the appointment of a new entrance to the Crow Collection facing Flora Street directly behind Liu Yonggang's 18-foot tall red steel *Buddha*, a new lobby space, an expansion of the Garden Gallery absorbing the space formerly housed by The Lotus Shop, enhanced stairs to the upper galleries and reoriented bathrooms.

Fierce Loyalty: A Samurai Complete was designed to complement one of the Crow Collection's most recent and spectacular acquisitions – a complete set of Samurai armor, one of the finest examples of its kind anywhere worldwide. This exquisitely crafted and perfectly preserved suit of armor was originally created for Abe Masayoshi, the *daimyo* (powerful landholding ruler) of the Bingo province in Japan from 1715 until his death in 1769. The exceptional quality and attention to detail applied to every aspect of the armor's creation made this suit stand out as a garment of sophisticated

refinement, and its wearer distinguished as a man of fine taste, setting him apart from other provincial *daimyo*. In addition to components crafted by the best metal smiths of the day, the armor includes a *hoshi kabuto* or a traditional Japanese helmet made by the renowned armorer Neo Masanobu. Gregory Irvine, Senior Curator in the Asian Department of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London remarked, upon viewing the complete armor and reviewing the provenance and detail, "Such an example of armor has never to my knowledge been offered before."

The exhibition also includes a seventeenth-century pair of battle screens, which depict the important historical battle of Yashima from the Genpei war (1180–1185). Specific battles from this epic war – which led to the transition from the Heian period (794–1185) to the Kamakura regime – became popular as subjects for screens and paintings centuries later. These screens graphically depict the horrors of war during medieval Japan, with over 450 warriors in action, either on horses, in boats, running, or in the water, yielding their long swords and shooting arrows. *Fierce Loyalty: A Samurai Complete* is guest curated by Midori Oka, Research Associate, Department of Asian Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Friends of the Crow Collection are invited to preview *Fierce Loyalty: A Samurai Complete* at an exclusive Members' Preview Reception on Thursday, October 23, 2014. For more information on becoming a *Friend of the Crow Collection* visit crowcollection.org/support. The public opening of this new permanent exhibition is on Saturday, October 25, 2014.

The Crow Collection of Asian Art is open Tuesdays – Thursdays (10 a.m. – 9 p.m.), Fridays – Saturdays (10 a.m. – 6 p.m.), Sundays (12 p.m. – 6 p.m.) and closed on Mondays. Admission is free. For more information, please go to crowcollection.org or call 214-979-6430.

About the Crow Collection of Asian Art

The Crow Collection of Asian Art features a variety of spaces and galleries with changing exhibitions of the arts of China, Japan, India, Korea and Southeast Asia drawn from cultures ancient and contemporary. Just 15 years in operation, this lovingly curated free museum offers a serene setting for quiet reflection in the heart of the Dallas Arts District. The Crow Collection continues to grow in art and service to the Dallas-Fort Worth community with an emphasis on shared learning and fun.

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