



Thursday, May 28, 2009

Contact: George Palovich
623/972-0635, ext 24 8:00am—noon
gpalovich@wvam.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Asia III: From Island to Continent
Through August 23
West Valley Art Museum**

Dorothy Knop once said “the story of mankind is written in the clothing that has developed because of the climate of an area and the education and lifestyle of the people.” Her huge donation to West Valley Art Museum, years ago, then Sun Cities Museum of Art, has provided the Valley community with the opportunity to travel to far away lands without ever leaving the country. In the third installment of the Asia series, “Asia III: From Island to Continent”, this travel extends from the Philippines and the Indonesian island of Sumatra to India, China and Korea.

One of the primary reasons for collecting, as perhaps also for having Museums and Zoos is the rapidly changing world and the loss of species, histories and knowledge of ways of life worth preserving. Mrs. Knop traveled because she loved meeting people of many cultures and learning about them and from them. The more acquainted she became with the cultures of more than 100 countries she traveled to the more she saw the similarities of human condition everywhere and how important it was to preserve the costume record of the past.

West Valley Art Museum collects in just three areas: Ethnic Dress and the related artifacts to the countries of origin of that Dress; International fine prints (defined as entirely artist created original editions and not reproductions); and the art of Arizona Artists. As the world has literally shrunk in wake of the Internet and global information access, there are many more opportunities to engage peoples from different parts of the world. Museums play an educational role in all this as they can be fountains of knowledge for young and old alike to learn about the world. The verisimilitude of real objects instead of pictures on a computer brings a special impact to the learning process. Two Museums in the West Valley have pertinent collections to further this education: West

West Valley Art Museum is open 10 AM to 4 PM Tuesday through Sunday. The Museum is located at West Bell Road and 114th Avenue. With nine exhibition galleries, a Museum Store, and regularly scheduled education programs, the Museum welcomes all visitors. There is an admission charge for non-members. \$7 adults, \$2 students, ages 5 and under are free.

Valley Art Museum in Surprise and the Bead Museum in Glendale.

In today's economy, it may be prudent for families to pull in and withdraw support for non-profits, but the question that remains is whether the sacrifice of knowledge and understanding is too high a price to pay. At least take advantage of the third Thursday free coupon on West Valley Art Museum's web site and come and experience the wonder of art and the world's cultures without having to travel very far.



Ethnic Dress from Philippines, Sumatra
and Java



Indian snake charmer with
cobra



Tibetan robe and Thangka (a
ceremonial painting)

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