



Claremont Rug Company Holds Globally Significant Exhibition

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Jan David Winitz Lecture Will Highlight Showing of Rare, 19th Century Caucasus Rugs

OAKLAND, Calif--Jan David Winitz, founder and president of Claremont Rug Company, will deliver his second lecture on the timeless symbolism and Profound artistic inspiration of the rugs from the Caucasus Mountain region as part of a globally significant exhibition.

"It is increasingly difficult to experience the range and artistic brilliance of this tradition as exhibitions have dwindled to just two annually on a world-wide basis," he said.

"This event offers aficionados a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in this rare group of rugs. I am pleased that the first lecture drew a full-house," Winitz said, "and the response has caused us to extend the exhibition into February 2008."

A world-recognized connoisseur and author, Winitz will also provide a valuable perspective about collecting and investing in antique tribal rugs at the lecture, scheduled for Sunday, January 13 at 2:30 p.m. at the company's Claremont II gallery, 1813 Fourth Street, Berkeley, CA.

Entitled "The Longevity of the Caucasian People and the Effect of Their Life Wisdom on Their Weavings", the lecture is being held in conjunction with an exhibition containing more than 50 collectible antique rugs woven by the tribal people living in the Caucasus Mountains.

"The weavings of the Caucasus in the 19th century are among the most interesting among the tribal rugs. The highly abstracted motifs are truly a precursor to modern Western art. From my research and many interviews with tribal people, I will provide a unique look, through their rugs and their designs, into their fascinating culture.

"It is safe to say that this exhibition offers visitors one of the most extensive looks in recent years anywhere in the world at great Caucasian rugs and the people who wove them," he said.

Included in the exhibition and highlighted during the lecture are rugs from Claremont's renowned collection, built over nearly three decades, and from Winitz's personal trove. The first lecture, delivered in November when the exhibition opened, was Winitz's first in more than a decade.

"Frankly, as the demands our business have grown and I spend of the vast majority of my time working on large customer projects and building collections for our private clients, it has become difficult also to lecture."

"However, the rugs of the Caucasus region are increasing in importance as art-level carpets disappear from the market," he said. "They offer a rich variety in themes and many current and potential collectors find the rugs enormously attractive. This has been consistently reflected in their investment valuations, which continue to rise as they become more difficult to find."

The Caucasus Mountains region, an area situated between ancient Persia and Russia, was the home of more than 300 disparate tribal groups who sought refuge from invaders in their towering peaks from as early as 2000 B.C. until the end of the 19th century. The region is widely known for producing a population where living well past 100 years is not uncommon and for its rich and an exceedingly diverse cultural legacy.