

CITYWIDE EXHIBITION

AFGHAN EXHIBITION INSPIRES SILK ROAD CELEBRATION

Washington, DC will be celebrating the Silk Road this summer, sparked by the U.S. premiere exhibition of archaeological treasures that illustrate the rich and diverse cultural heritage of one of the world's greatest nations. *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul*, is on view at the **National Gallery of Art** May 25 through Sep. 7. Organized by the **National Geographic Society** and the **National Gallery of Art** in association with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the exhibition features more than 200 remarkable artifacts, most on view for the first time. Discovered in modern Afghanistan, the pieces illustrate the region's importance as a vital and ancient crossroads of trade routes known as the Silk Road, which stretched from Asia to the Mediterranean. Some of the objects on display date back from thousands of years, including gold objects from the famed Bactrian hoard—a 2,000-year-old cache discovered in

1978 but hidden from view during 25 years of conflict until it was located intact in the presidential palace bank vault in Kabul in 2003.

In honor of the exhibition, cultural institutions and hospitality partners throughout the DC metropolitan region will offer related programs and content including exhibitions, film series, concerts, lectures and more. DC's restaurants are also joining in the celebration. At **Mie N Yu**, Executive Chef Tim Elliott has created a special Afghan-inspired five-course menu featuring regional Afghan flavors and cooking techniques. Available May 22 through Sep. 3, the dinner is priced at \$55 per person or \$75 with *Silk Road* wine pairings (excludes tax and gratuity). Log on to destinationdc.com for more information and added participants.



Sculpture of a water goddess standing atop a makara, a mythical water creature, from Begram, dating from the first century A.D. This item will be on display as part of the exhibition Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul organized by the National Geographic Society and National Gallery of Art, in cooperation with the National Museum of Afghanistan, Kabul. CREDIT: © Thierry Ollivier / Musée Guimet

