

**THE BMA PRESENTS *TIMELESS WEFT: ANCIENT TAPESTRIES*
AND THE ART OF LOUISE B. WHEATLEY THROUGH JULY 30, 2017**

*Exhibition celebrates the decades-long career of the Maryland artist and her appreciation
of weaving in ancient societies and old traditions*

BALTIMORE, MD (February 7, 2017)—The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) presents *Timeless Weft: Ancient Tapestries and The Art of Louise B. Wheatley*, an intimate exhibition that celebrates the more than 40-year career of Maryland artist Louise B. Wheatley. Internalizing the lessons of ancient masters, represented by Coptic textile fragments from the museum's collection, Wheatley creates art that is unmistakably a reflection of her own unique vision and her self-imposed sense of technical perfection. The exhibition is on view in the Jean and Allan Berman Gallery through July 30, 2017.



In her late teens, Wheatley forged a connection with Pre-Columbian and Egyptian Coptic textiles. Years later, the artist began spinning and weaving, emulating the practices of ancient predecessors. Her admiration for the colors of antique textiles inspired her lifelong quest to learn about vegetable dyes by growing dye plants in her own garden and processing them by hand. Her desire to understand fibers led her to grow and harvest cotton and flax, as well as raise her own sheep for wool. Some of Wheatley's works recall the composition and methods of Coptic textiles, including intricate and technically difficult border designs and the use of specific weaving techniques. Less directly, Wheatley emulates their brilliant colors, connection to nature, celebration of earth's fertility, and exploration of philosophical and religious thought.

This exhibition is curated by Anita Jones, Curator of Textiles, and supported by the Estate of Margaret Hammond Cooke.

THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914 with a single painting, the BMA today has 95,000 objects—including the largest public holding of works by Henri Matisse. Throughout the museum, visitors will find an outstanding selection of American and European painting, sculpture, and decorative arts; works by established and emerging contemporary artists; significant artworks from China; stunning Antioch mosaics; and an exceptional collection of art from Africa. The BMA's galleries also showcase examples from one of the nation's finest collections of prints, drawings, and photographs and exquisite textiles from around the world. The 210,000-square-foot museum is distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope and two beautifully landscaped sculpture gardens. As a major cultural destination for the region, the BMA hosts a dynamic program of exhibitions, events, and educational programs throughout the year. General admission to the BMA is free so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

VISITOR INFORMATION

General admission to the BMA is free. Special exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. The museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4,

Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located at 10 Art Museum Drive, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org.

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Image: Louise B. Wheatley. *Seed Manta*. 1999. The Baltimore Museum of Art: Lilian Sarah Greif Bequest Fund, BMA 1999.162.