

Press release

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Ancient Textiles from the Andes

29 March – 15 September 2019

This is a rare opportunity to see ancient Andean textiles of this quality and size exhibited in the UK. Through a major loan from the collector Paul Hughes, alongside pieces from the Whitworth, textiles from c300BC to c1400AD will be on display.

As well as celebrating breath-taking achievements in textile technique and design, this show explores the complexities of their transition from local ritual to a wider international stage. Vitally, acknowledging the human origins of these objects (from tombs and often from bodies themselves) they are part of a programme of debate about ethics, how objects are contextualised and the impact of conservation on how we understand them.

Image credits for Ancient Textiles:

Image 1. Ocucaje Shirt with Figure, Paracas culture, Southern Andes, wool loop knit, c300 AD, 70x60cm. Paul Hughes Collection

Image 2. Tie dye child's tunic, Wari culture, Southern Andes, camelid fibres, c800 AD, 160x130cm. Paul Hughes Collection

Image 3. Tunic (Cushma), Wari culture, Southern Andes, alpaca wool, c800 AD, 220x145cm. Paul Hughes Collection

Image 4. Tunic (Cushma), Wari culture, Southern Andes, alpaca wool, c800 AD, 251x155cm. Paul Hughes Collection

Image 5. Panel, Chancay culture, Andes, tapestry-woven wool and cotton, c1300-1535, 76x38cm. The Whitworth, The University of Manchester

Image 6. Fragment, Chimú culture, Andes, double-cloth woven cotton, c1000-1476, 15x20cm. The Whitworth, The University of Manchester

About the Whitworth

The Whitworth is proudly part of the University of Manchester and serves as a bridge between the University and the people of the city; a place to meet, play and learn in public.

Its mission is to use art for social change; founded in 1889 as The Whitworth Institute and Park in memory of the industrialist Sir Joseph Whitworth for “the perpetual gratification of the people of Manchester”, with clear practical aims to counteract the malaises of inner-city life and to educate and inspire a city of makers and manufacturing.

The Whitworth re-opened to the public in 2015 after a major £17 million redevelopment by architects MUMA. It has welcomed over one million visitors since re-opening, and more than doubled its previous annual records. The redevelopment doubled the public space and created state-of-the-art new facilities to house the collection of over 55,000 works of art and included expanded gallery spaces, a study centre, learning studio, and a collections centre. The gallery was crowned Art Fund Museum of Year 2015, nominated for the prestigious Stirling Prize and named Best Emerging Cultural Destination in Europe. www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

The gallery has historically been at the centre of civic and cultural life and this is also its future.

For further press information and to request images please contact:

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