

PRESS RELEASE



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A LEGACY UNVEILED – ANN DUNHAM’S INDONESIAN BATIK COLLECTION

**U.S. Embassy and Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia presents
a unique collection by U.S. President Obama’s mother**

The Embassy of the United States in Kuala Lumpur and the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (IAMM) are pleased to present – “*Ann Dunham’s Legacy: A Collection of Indonesian Batiks*,” an exhibition that will showcase 20 batiks from the private collection of Ann Dunham, President Obama’s mother. The launch of the exhibition by Ann Dunham’s daughter, Dr Maya Soetoro-Ng, will mark the first time that the collection will be exhibited outside the United States. The collection will be exhibited from June 8 to July 20, 2012, at the museum, on Jalan Lembah Perdana, 50480 Kuala Lumpur.

This unique collection of batiks was put together in the 1960s and 70s by Ann Dunham, after she moved to Indonesia with her husband and son Barack Obama. During her time there, as a scholar and anthropologist, she helped women in the local craft industry through micro credit and small enterprises. She also developed a deep interest in batik and the lives of batik makers.

The pieces she collected were acquired from both bustling city streets and quiet villages, and while the batiks were neither rare nor expensive, they reflect the daily lives of the people around her at the time and represent an enduring textile tradition. Looking at the vibrant colors and motifs of Indonesian batiks, it is easy to see how they can capture the imagination. Steeped in tradition and yet readily embracing modernity, batiks encompass diversity and unity all in one.

In addition to a special focus on the life and work of Ann Dunham, the exhibition will also delve into: the history of batik, how it is made, worn and collected, as well as its alluring array of patterns and motifs. The exhibition will be further enhanced by the addition of several mementoes from Ann Dunham's personal collection, as well as ten Indonesian batiks from the IAMM collection. As this is a collection unlike any other, the exhibition is an opportunity not to be missed!

To commemorate the exhibition, the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia is also producing a 120-page exhibition catalogue entitled *Ann Dunham's Legacy: A Collection of Indonesian Batik*. The exhibition will be on display in Special Gallery 1 at the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia from June 8 – July 20, 2012.

For more information about the exhibit, please see www.iamm.org.my

