

TUTANKHAMUN

THE GOLDEN KING AND THE GREAT PHaraohs

July 1, 2010–January 2, 2011

DENVER
ART MUSEUM

100 W 14th Ave Pkwy
Denver, CO 80204-2788
www.denverartmuseum.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS: Kristy Bassuener, DAM, 720-913-0115 or kbassuener@denverartmuseum.org
Laura Calliari, AEI, 310-941-8780 or laura@artsandexhibitions.com

SUMMER 2010 ROCKY MOUNTAIN EXCLUSIVE: King Tut Makes Colorado Debut at Denver Art Museum

Spectacular Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs exhibition opens July 2010

(Denver, Colo.) January 26, 2010 – *Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs*, a touring exhibition featuring more than 100 treasures from the tomb of the celebrated pharaoh King Tut and additional ancient sites, will make its debut and sole Rocky Mountain West appearance at the Denver Art Museum (DAM), opening to the public July 1, 2010, and continuing through January 2, 2011. The exhibition is organized by National Geographic, Arts and Exhibitions International and AEG Exhibitions, with cooperation from the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities. A portion of the proceeds from the tour will go toward antiquities preservation and conservation efforts in Egypt, including the construction of a new grand museum in Cairo.

“This exquisite exhibition will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for visitors from Denver and the Rocky Mountain region to experience the art of ancient Egypt,” said Christoph Heinrich, DAM director. “Our expanded campus provides us with the space and infrastructure to serve the community with a wide variety of art experiences, and we are excited to be hosting *Tutankhamun*.”

“Tutankhamun’s magic still captures the hearts of people all over the world, even though more than 85 years have passed since the discovery of his amazing tomb,” said Zahi Hawass, secretary general of Egypt’s Supreme Council of Antiquities.

About the Exhibition

Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs will feature striking objects from some of the most important rulers throughout 2,000 years of ancient Egyptian history, from the 4th Dynasty into the Late Period (about 2,600 B.C. to 660 B.C.). Derived from a variety of contexts, including temples and both royal and private tombs, many of these artifacts have never before visited the United States prior to this exhibition tour.

This spectacular collection features the largest image of King Tut ever unearthed – a 10-foot statue of the pharaoh found at the remains of the funerary temple of two of his high officials. The statue still retains much of its original paint. The exhibition follows a storyline that explores the splendor of the pharaohs, their function in both the earthly and divine worlds and what “kingship” meant to the Egyptian people. Visitors will encounter artifacts from powerful Egyptian rulers, including Khefren, whose great pyramid is



Tutankhamun shabti. ©2008 Sandro Vannini.

the only remaining structure of the seven wonders of the ancient world; Hatshepsut, the queen who became a pharaoh; and Psusennes I, whose magnificent golden death mask will be on display.

The DAM will dedicate two expansive Hamilton Building gallery spaces to the exhibition, the Anschutz Gallery and the Gallagher Family Gallery. The dramatic experience will begin with a short National Geographic documentary narrated by actor Harrison Ford, then continue in spaces exploring some of the most important pharaohs throughout ancient Egyptian history. The final galleries are dedicated to King Tut's tomb, including an area devoted to its discovery by British explorer Howard Carter in 1922. Guests will encounter legendary artifacts from the tomb's antechamber, annex, treasury and burial chamber in corresponding galleries, which will include the pharaoh's golden sandals, jewelry, furniture, weaponry and statuary.

New scientific discoveries providing insight into King Tut's legendary life and death are also brought to light. A landmark Egyptian research and conservation project, partially funded by the National Geographic Society, includes the first 3-D CT scans of the great king's mummy, captured through the use of a portable CT scanner donated by Siemens Medical Solutions.

DAM Family Programming

Programming surrounding the exhibition will feature family-friendly activities and spaces to engage visitors of all ages. In a special family area, kids can dress up as an Egyptian ibis or owl, make an Egyptian collar or kick back with a book on ancient pyramids. In addition to this special area, DAM will host a full array of programs related to King Tut, from *Create Playdates* for toddlers and their grownups to *Untitled* events for young adults, as well as lectures, teachers' previews, workshops and more.

Ticketing Information

Tickets will go on sale in spring 2010, and ticket pricing will be announced at that time online at www.tutdenver.com. Museum members will receive notification about priority booking and discounted tickets, and will have the first opportunity to purchase discounted tickets for this groundbreaking exhibition. For more information on becoming a DAM member, please visit www.denverartmuseum.org/membership or call 720-865-5000.

The exhibition is anticipated to be a major travel and tourism draw for the city of Denver and the state of Colorado, said Richard Scharf, president and CEO of VISIT DENVER, the private, non-profit trade association responsible for marketing Denver as a convention and leisure destination. "Denver is an unparalleled destination for business or pleasure with vast cultural resources, and *Tutankhamun's* arrival in 2010 will undoubtedly be a great draw for the Mile High City," Scharf said. "VISIT DENVER looks forward to working together with the Denver Art Museum to build excitement for this incredible exhibition."

To underscore this tourism draw, six partner hotels in Denver are offering King Tut ticketing packages that will include accommodations and VIP exhibition tickets. Specially designed for visitors who want to stay in Denver and see the exhibition without reserving in advance or waiting in line, these VIP tickets are untimed and undated. Purchasing a hotel package is the only way to get these "hate to wait" tickets. Hotel package information, ticketing information and exhibition details will appear on the exhibition's promotional website, www.tutdenver.com, which is scheduled to launch in March 2010.

Group Ticketing and Events

Group ticket sales for King Tut have begun. Convention, business, church, school or leisure tour groups can receive group rates by contacting the Group Sales Team at 1-877-5-GO2TUT. Make it a party and add a cocktail reception or dining experience in one of the museum's unique and unforgettable event spaces, paired with artfully tailored cuisine by Kevin Taylor Catering at the Denver Art Museum. For more information, please contact tutgroups@denverartmuseum.org or call 720-865-5171.

Northern Trust is a proud cultural partner of the tour, and American Airlines is the official airline.

“For 120 years, Northern Trust has recognized the value of providing our communities with enriching cultural and educational experiences, such as this exhibition on invaluable treasures from ancient Egypt,” said Frederick H. Waddell, Northern Trust president and chief executive officer. “We are privileged to support an event that brings to Denver unique insights into our shared human history.”

“American Airlines is thrilled to have a role in bringing this exhibit to Denver,” said Dan Garton, executive vice president of marketing for American Airlines. “We realize that access to global transportation is an important component of making this exhibit a reality and it is exciting to know that American Airlines will be helping to make it possible for this remarkable exhibit to be seen by visitors in Denver and the entire western region of the country.”

National Geographic Books publishes the companion book to the exhibition, written by Zahi Hawass, secretary general of Egypt’s Supreme Council of Antiquities.

Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs is one of two National Geographic exhibitions dedicated to the remarkable treasures of King Tutankhamun and ancient Egyptian royalty. For more information on both of these traveling exhibitions, please visit www.kingtut.org.

About National Geographic

The National Geographic Society is one of the world’s largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations. Founded in 1888 to “increase and diffuse geographic knowledge,” the Society works to inspire people to care about the planet. It reaches more than 375 million people worldwide each month through its official journal, *National Geographic*, and other magazines; National Geographic Channel; television documentaries; music; radio; films; books; DVDs; maps; exhibitions; live events; school publishing programs; interactive media; and merchandise. National Geographic has funded more than 9,200 scientific research, conservation and exploration projects and supports an education program promoting geographic literacy. For more information, visit www.nationalgeographic.com.

About Arts and Exhibitions International

Founded in 2003 by President John Norman and international vice president Andres Numhauser, AEI produces the award-winning exhibition *Diana: A Celebration* in association with the Althorp Estate in the United Kingdom, two touring exhibitions dedicated to the treasures of King Tutankhamun and *Real Pirates: The Untold Story of the Whydah from Slave Ship to Pirate Ship*. Norman and Numhauser have nearly 40 years combined experience in the entertainment and exhibition business, working over the years on such projects as *Titanic: The Artifact Exhibit* and *Saint Peter and the Vatican: The Legacy of the Popes*. The company has relationships with the most important museums in the world and has presented traveling exhibitions on four continents. AEI is part of AEG Exhibitions, an affiliate division of AEG LIVE. AEG LIVE is the live-entertainment division of Los Angeles-based AEG, one of the leading sports and entertainment presenters in the world. For more information, visit www.artsandexhibitions.com.

About the Denver Art Museum

The Denver Art Museum is a private, non-profit, educational resource for Colorado. The mission of the museum is to enrich the lives of Colorado and Rocky Mountain residents through the acquisition, preservation and presentation of art works in both the permanent collections and temporary exhibitions, and by supporting these works with exemplary educational and scholarly programs. The museum is located on 13th Avenue between Broadway and Bannock Streets in downtown Denver. Open Tuesday-Thursday and Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Sunday noon-5 p.m.; closed Mondays, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day. General admission is free on the first Saturday of each month. Free First Saturdays are sponsored by Target, and made possible by the citizens who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District. The Cultural Complex Garage is open; enter from 12th Avenue between Broadway and Bannock or check the DAM websites for up-to-date parking information. For information in Spanish, call 720-913-0169. For more information, visit www.denverartmuseum.org or call 720-865-5000.

###