

WORKSHOP:***UNDERSTANDING CARPETS AND RUG WEAVING*****October 21-24, 2024**Contact: MuseumCuratorial@gwu.edu

We are pleased to announce, “Understanding Carpets and Rug Weaving,” a four-day workshop organized and hosted by The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum. Held from October 21 through October 24 at the museum’s [Avenir Foundation Conservation and Collections Resource Center](#), the workshop will be led by [Walter B. Denny](#) (The Textile Museum Research Associate, The University of Massachusetts Amherst) and [Sumru Belger Krody](#) (Senior Curator, The Textile Museum Collection) with support from the museum’s curatorial staff. The workshop will address professional concerns of museum curators and academic scholars from all levels of experience including those currently undertaking graduate study.

The program will include a mixture of formats: illustrated lectures giving an overview of the history and development of rug and carpet weaving; group discussions; and practical exercises in the analysis of weave structures, including an up-close study of a selection of rugs and other textiles from The Textile Museum Collection. Participants will come away with an understanding of basic weave structures in the context of various carpet cultures (Anatolia, Iran, Transcaucasia, and Central Asia), weaving traditions (nomadic and settled), eras (from Early Modern times to the 19th century) and economic spheres (court and commercial production), as well as methods for analyzing and documenting rugs and carpets. We will also discuss the storage, conservation, and display of carpets in a museum context.

The museum will provide lunch and coffee, as well as all materials necessary for the workshop. Participants will be responsible for their own travel, accommodation, and dinner expenses. Registration for the workshop closes on **September 1, 2024** and is limited to 10 participants. **To register, please complete [this form](#).** The Museum will provide a syllabus, some basic documentary materials to be read in advance, and detailed accommodation recommendations upon registration.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The museum is happy to provide a scholarship covering accommodation and dinner allowance to one graduate student for the workshop. Graduate students who are in good standing and currently enrolled in a U.S. higher-education institution are eligible to apply. We welcome applicants from graduate programs in art history, archaeology, history, classics, religious studies, and other fields who might benefit from close engagement with our collection and training in material-culture approaches.

To apply, please submit a CV and cover letter with a summary of your research interests, plans for future research, and an explanation of how the workshop would benefit your intellectual and professional development. **All materials should be submitted as a single PDF document to museumcuratorial@gwu.edu.** Applications are due by **July 1, 2024**.

Applicants are also encouraged to explore other sources of funding support within their own institutions, and from various professional organizations that support research in the area of carpets, textiles, and the history of Islamic art.