

News Release



S H A N G R I L A

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DORIS DUKE'S HONOLULU HOME TO OPEN FOR PUBLIC TOURS

HONOLULU — The Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art, in partnership with the Honolulu Academy of Arts, announced today that the Hawaiian home of heiress and philanthropist Doris Duke (1912-1993) will open to the public for guided tours on November 6, 2002. Built by Duke in the late 1930s, the Islamic-style residence is known as “Shangri La” and offers visitors a rare opportunity to explore Islamic art and culture in a stunning Hawaiian setting.

Located on five acres of oceanfront property overlooking the Pacific Ocean and Diamond Head, Shangri La houses Doris Duke’s extensive collection of Islamic art, which includes more than 3,500 objects. Diverse media, time periods, cultures and regions of the Islamic world are juxtaposed in nearly every room. Many works of art are embedded in the structure of the house, revealing their original purpose and function.

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Owned and supported by the
Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art

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Add 1

“Shangri La is a reflection of Doris Duke’s passion for collecting and living with Islamic art. She began collecting during her honeymoon in 1935 and continued until the end of her life – a sustained effort of nearly 60 years. Today Shangri La houses one of the most diverse and extensive collections of Islamic art in the United States,” noted Deborah Pope, executive director of Shangri La. “We are excited to share this cultural and historic resource with the rest of the world. The house and artwork can foster a better understanding of the distinctive countries, cultures, styles of art and architecture that are found in the Islamic world.”

Shangri La is the only one of Doris Duke’s many estates that she conceived and had built, and she oversaw every detail of its construction. As the name implies, it became her lifelong retreat and provided a tranquil respite from the public eye.

As she continued to collect Islamic art and incorporate it into her home, Doris Duke realized that the use and value of her estate could extend beyond her lifetime. In 1965, she modified her will to instruct that Shangri La be opened to the public for the study of Islamic art and culture.

“Shangri La is a cornerstone of Doris Duke’s legacy. She always intended to share it with scholars, students and the public, and we are delighted to have the opportunity to do so – particularly at a time when understanding of Islamic art and culture is so vital,” said Joan E. Spero, president of the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art (DDFIA), which owns and manages Shangri La.

In 2001, DDFIA formed a partnership with the Honolulu Academy of Arts, one of Hawaii’s premiere arts institutions, to coordinate public visitation to Shangri La. In conjunction with the partnership, the DDFIA also will support educational and cultural programs at the Academy that focus on Islamic as well as Hawaiian art and culture.

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Add 2

Shangri La Tour Information

All tours of Shangri La begin at the Honolulu Academy of Arts with a viewing of the new *Arts of the Islamic World* gallery exhibition and a short video introducing Shangri La. Tour groups then board a minivan for a 15-minute drive to Shangri La, where a docent will guide visitors through the public rooms of the main residence and portions of the grounds, including the Mughal Garden and the upper lawn with views of the guesthouse, pool and water terraces.

Beginning on November 6, 2002, tours will be offered at timed intervals, Wednesday through Saturday, with the first tour beginning at 8:30 a.m. and the last tour beginning at 1:30 p.m. Tours will last about 2½ hours with 1½ hours on site at Shangri La. Because of the fragile nature of Shangri La, tour groups are limited to 12 people and are not appropriate for children under 12 years old.

Tickets cost \$25 per person and include van transportation to Shangri La and admission to all permanent exhibitions at the Honolulu Academy of Arts. Discounted tickets are available for \$20 to Hawaii residents with proof of local residency. All tickets are nonrefundable. Advance reservations are required. Information on Shangri La and tours may be obtained by visiting www.shangriolahawaii.org. (Please see “Shangri La Fact Sheet” for more details about tours and the estate.)

About the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art

Shangri La is owned by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art (DDFIA), which Doris Duke created in her will to manage Shangri La and to “promote the study and understanding of Middle Eastern art and culture.” The will also directs that Shangri La be opened to the public and shared with scholars and students. DDFIA is an operating foundation that is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. It does not generally award grants.

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Add 3

About the Honolulu Academy of Arts

Since its doors opened in 1927, the Honolulu Academy of Arts has grown to become Hawaii's largest private presenter of visual arts programs, with a permanent collection of more than 33,700 works of art from cultures around the world. On Sunday, October 27, 2002, the Academy will unveil its new *Arts of the Islamic World* gallery. The gallery will serve as the orientation and staging center for Shangri La tours, which will begin on November 6, 2002. With support from the DDFIA, the Academy also will develop ongoing programs and activities that focus on Islamic and Hawaiian art and culture, including exhibitions, classes, workshops, lectures, film series and performances. (Please see "Honolulu Academy of Arts and Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art Offer Programs and Exhibition on Islamic Arts and Cultures" and "Honolulu Academy of Arts Fact Sheet" for more information.)

About the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

Established in 1996, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation has assets of close to \$1.3 billion and is headquartered in New York City. In addition to DDFIA, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation supports two other operating foundations: the Duke Farms Foundation, which manages a 2,700-acre estate known as "Duke Farms" in Hillsborough, New Jersey; and the Newport Restoration Foundation, which manages Doris Duke's home known as "Rough Point" in Newport, Rhode Island. In her will, Doris Duke instructed that Shangri La, Duke Farms and Rough Point be opened for public visitation and educational programs.

The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation also supports four national grant-making programs that fund nonprofit organizations working in the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and child abuse prevention. Additional information on the foundation is available at www.ddcf.org.

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