

V&A Museum of Childhood

London

PRESS RELEASE

Kites From Kabul

4 July 2015 – 3 January 2016

In the historic city of Kabul, the spring sunshine brings kite flyers out in their hundreds, and brightly coloured kites can be seen dotting the skyline. Kites From Kabul will bring this spectacle to London, with a display of kites made by children in Murad Khani, the Old City district of Kabul. The display has been developed with the British charity Turquoise Mountain, one of the Prince's Charities, which works in Afghanistan. It opens at the V&A Museum of Childhood on 4 July and runs until 3 January 2016.

In Kites from Kabul, the entrance lobby at the V&A Museum of Childhood will be transformed with a colourful display of paper kites in flight. The rich heritage of kite flying will be brought to life by photographs taken by Australian photojournalist Andrew Quilty in 2014 and 2015, at kite flying sites around Kabul and Bamiyan. There will also be a video by filmmaker and writer Lalage Snow, giving a glimpse into the lives of children living in the Old Town.

Turquoise Mountain has been working in Afghanistan since 2006 to revive historic areas and traditional crafts, and has restored over 100 historic and community buildings in the Murad Khani district of Kabul. It has also set up the Turquoise Mountain Institute for Afghan Arts and Architecture, which trains hundreds of young Afghans in traditional arts and crafts. The kites in this display are the result of a collaboration between the children of Murad Khani and students from the Institute.

"Turquoise Mountain is delighted to be partnering with the V&A Museum of Childhood on this exhibition. Kite-flying is such an evocative symbol of childhood and freedom, and something that children and adults can relate to wherever they are in the world. We hope this exhibition will make its own small contribution to fostering a deeper understanding of Afghanistan, its people and culture, in the UK." – Dr Tommy Wide, Managing Director, Turquoise Mountain

V&A Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9PA

Admission free. Open daily: 10.00 – 17.45, last admission 17.30

Nearest tube: Bethnal Green. Tel: 020 8983 5200 www.vam.ac.uk/moc

For further information and images please contact Joanna Bolitho at the V&A Museum of Childhood Press Office on 020 8983 5219 or j.bolitho@vam.ac.uk

Continues...

Notes to editors

The **V&A Museum of Childhood** aims to encourage everyone to explore the themes of childhood past and present and develop an appreciation of creative design through its inspirational collections and programmes. The Museum is part of the V&A, housing the national childhood collection. The galleries are designed to show the collections in a way which is accessible to adults and children of all ages.

Turquoise Mountain was established in 2006 at the request of HRH Prince Charles and Hamid Karzai, former President of Afghanistan. It is one of the Prince's Charities. Turquoise Mountain's aim is to revive Afghanistan's traditional crafts, and to regenerate Murad Khani, a historic area of Kabul's Old City known for its rich cultural heritage. During the last eight years it has restored over 100 historic and community buildings in the Murad Khani district, as well as establishing a clinic and primary school for local children. It has also set up the Turquoise Mountain Institute for Afghan Arts and Architecture, which trains hundreds of young Afghans in traditional arts and crafts, such as calligraphy, ceramics, woodwork, and jewellery-making. Turquoise Mountain has been supported by many public and private donors, with USAID its largest donor to date.