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CONTACT: Jonathan Willen

202-528-7004

Jon@jonathangwillen.com

**Joe Hockey, Australian Ambassador to the US, to serve as 2018 Washington
Winter Show Diplomatic Chair**

Former White House florist Laura Dowling to provide floral art for the
Charm of Chinoiserie

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, the Board of the Washington Winter Show announced the honorable Joe Hockey, Australia's ambassador to the United States, as the 2018 Show Diplomatic Chair, joining honorary Show Chair, Charlotte Moss, and over three dozen antiques and fine arts dealers to celebrate the Charm of Chinoiserie.

Additionally, former White House florist, Laura Dowling, will lend her talents to the show, with floral installations inspired by De Gournay, which will be present during Preview Night (Thursday, January 11th) and throughout the Show (January 12-14) at the Katzen Arts Center.

Serving in his position as Australia's Ambassador to the United States since 2016, the Honorable Joe Hockey has a long and distinguished career in public service. He first entered Parliament in 1996 as the Member for North Sydney, and served for more than 17 years. In addition to serving as Minister in a number of different portfolios including Financial Services, Small Business and Tourism, and Human Workplace Relations, he also served as Treasurer of the Commonwealth from 2013-2015. Mr. Hockey is married to Ms. Melissa Babbage, with whom he has three children.

Complimenting this year's theme, the Charm of Chinoiserie, the Board is thrilled that renowned floral designer, Laura Dowling, will lend her talents in creating floral installations for the show, interpreting a series of hand-painted de Gournay panels on loan for the show. The former Chief Floral Designer at the White House (2009-2015),

Dowling is known for using flowers as a strategic tool for communicating diplomatic, symbolic and policy messages in a style that is evocative of nature and the garden.

In addition to this special installation, the 2018 Show features a loan exhibition, "In the Chinese Style," curated by Grant Quertermous of Tudor Place Historic House & Garden. The exhibit features objects from a variety of museums and private collections, including Dumbarton House, Monticello, Montpelier, Gunston Hall, Stratford Hall and Tudor Place, that illustrate the fanciful and often imagined Chinese-style designs that western craftsmen incorporated into furniture, textiles, and other decorative arts throughout the 18th and 19th century.

The 2018 Show welcomes back many familiar faces with over 40 dealers from across the U.S. and Europe, offering a broad range of exquisite antiques and fine arts. Once again, proceeds will benefit the Washington Winter Show's charity partners: THEARC, Bishop John T. Walker School, and the Founders Board of St. John's Community Services. The Show runs January 12-14, at the Katzen Arts Center.

www.washingtonwintershow.org