



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Chelsea Mason, Marketing Director
626.449.2742 x22
c.mason@pacificasiamuseum.org

Pacific Asia Museum Announces New Exhibition *Kimono in the 20th Century*



February 20, 2012-- Pacific Asia Museum announces the exhibition *Kimono in the 20th Century*, on view March 30, 2012 to March 10, 2013 in The Frank and Toshie Mosher Gallery of Japanese Art.

Early in the 20th century, imported Western artistic trends, among them Art Deco and Jazz styles, brought new dimensions to traditional Japanese design and fashion. *Kimono in the 20th Century* examines various kimono types and fabric motifs, reflecting the ways in which people incorporated these shifting preferences for design into their garments for celebratory events.

These brilliant kimono from the mid-20th century show an array of garment types for various seasons and occasions. Kimono in the exhibition range from the most formal reserved for ceremony to stylish underwear. Also on

display, obi sashes—besides the kimono the main feature of the ensemble—are brocaded with metallic thread or painted in eye-popping tones. Kimono fabrics vary from deep black with reserve details in white to Op-art that dazzles the eyes, each garment giving a strong sense of the wearer's taste, modes of contemporary fashion, and season in which the kimono was worn. This exhibition features a 2008 gift from the June Tsukamoto-Lyon collection, which provided breadth and further quality to Pacific Asia Museum's already substantial collection.

Literally, the "thing to wear," a kimono is for Japan a signal of native culture, and communicates dignity, class and artistic sense. The most common type of kimono is the *hōmongi* (kimono for visiting), which are decorated with patterns that flow down from the shoulder to the hem. One often sees the *hōmongi* at a New Year's visit to a Shinto shrine or at celebrations of life events such as the first presentation of a baby to a Shinto shrine, a graduation, wedding, or retirement party. *Hōmongi* or kimono with overall small patterns (*komon*) are also worn at artistic events such as a meeting for tea, a display of flower arranging or a musical or theatrical performance of native style. The more formal *tomesode* is reserved for the wedding of immediate family. This exhibition features examples of all these types in two rotations to reflect the seasons and delight the eye.

The exhibition is guest-curated by Hollis Goodall, Curator of Japanese Art at LACMA, and generously supported by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and Sid and Betsey Tyler.

Related Events

All events are free to members and included with museum admission for non-members, unless noted otherwise.

April 14, 2 p.m. CURATOR'S TOUR

Join Hollis Goodall, Curator of Japanese Art at LACMA and guest curator of the special exhibition *Kimono in the 20th Century*, for an inside look at this beautiful tradition.

April 22, noon - 4 p.m. FREE FAMILY FESTIVAL

Enjoy free admission to all the galleries, hands-on crafts, performances, demonstrations and fun activities as we celebrate the centennial of Japan's gift of cherry trees to our nation's capital.

May 20, 2 p.m.-3 p.m. DEMONSTRATION

Master artist Setsuko Hayashi demonstrates the classic *yuzen* and *shibori* dying techniques as featured in the fabrics of *Kimono in the 20th Century*. In Japanese and English.

May 20, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. WORKSHOP

Create your own silk scarf using the *shibori* tie-dying technique. In Japanese and English. \$5 materials fee; advanced registration required. Visit our website or call ext. 19 for more details.

June 10, 2 p.m. KIMONO DEMONSTRATION

Following a presentation on the basics of kimono, Naomi Onizuka dresses on-stage models in a variety of styles, illuminating the often hidden artistry that goes into properly wearing kimono. Select audience members will then have the opportunity to be professionally attired in a *yukata* style. Reservations are required to participate in the dressing activity; contact ext. 19 for more details.

June 24, 2p.m. AUTHORS ON ASIA

Ken Brown presents an overview of Japanese book and magazine illustration from the late Meiji and Taisho periods with his recent books *Japanese Warriors, Rogues and Beauties: Woodblocks from Adventure Stories* and *Dangerous Beauties and Dutiful Wives: Popular Portraits of Women in Japan, 1905-1925*. Books available for purchase and signing. Light refreshments. RSVP to the Museum Store at ext. 20.

August 17, 7:30 p.m. FUSION FRIDAY: WRAP UP

Examine exquisite garments in *Kimono in the 20th Century*, get a taste of our upcoming Pacific Island textiles exhibition, enjoy a fashion show, and take on our reality-TV-inspired fashion design challenge as we wrap up this season of Fusion Fridays with community partner APEX. \$15 general public, free to members.

September 16, 2 p.m.-3 p.m. DEMONSTRATION

Master artist Setsuko Hayashi demonstrates the classic *yuzen* and *shibori* dying techniques as featured in the fabrics of *Kimono in the 20th Century*. In Japanese and English.

September 16, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. WORKSHOP

Create your own silk scarf using the *shibori* tie-dyeing technique. In Japanese and English. \$5 materials fee; advanced registration required. Visit our website or call ext. 19 for more details.

December 8, 2 p.m. CURATOR'S TOUR

Join Hollis Goodall, Curator of Japanese Art at LACMA and guest curator of the special exhibition *Kimono in the 20th Century*, for an inside look at the second rotation of the exhibition.

About Pacific Asia Museum

Pacific Asia Museum is among the few institutions in the United States dedicated exclusively to the arts and culture of Asia and the Pacific Islands. The museum's mission is to further intercultural understanding through the arts of Asia and the Pacific Islands. Since 1971, Pacific Asia Museum has served a broad audience of students, families, adults and scholars through its exhibitions and programs.

Pacific Asia Museum is located at 46 North Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, California 91101. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 6 pm. Admission is \$9 general, \$7 students/seniors, and free for museum members and children under 12. Admission is free every 4th Friday of the month.

For more information visit www.pacificasiamuseum.org or call (626) 449-2742.

###