



March 4, 2010

EXHIBITION FACT SHEET



Title: *Fashioning Kimono: Art Deco and Modernism in Japan*

When: January 31–April 4, 2010

Description: This nationally touring exhibition brings together nearly 100 extraordinary examples of *kimono*—Japan’s traditional national dress—from the famed Montgomery Collection in Lugano, Switzerland. Included are everyday garments; intricately embroidered ceremonial robes; boys’ *kimono* stenciled with cars, airplanes and battleships; and colorful Art Deco patterns heralding the emergence of Japan’s “new woman.” All were created between the 1890s and the 1950s, a dynamic period when technological advances in silk making and the influence of Western styles resulted in an explosion of bold and vibrant designs.



Programs & events: These include an exhibition party (January 30), two lectures (January 31 and March 18), a collectors’ show and tell (March 14), a celebration of Japanese culture (March 19) and a family day (March 28). For details on these and other programs, see attached release.

Credits: This exhibition is organized and circulated by Art Services International, Alexandria, VA. Support for the national tour and catalog has been provided by The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation. In Rochester, the exhibition is made possible by the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery and the Robert L. and Mary L. Sproull Fund.



Hours: Open Wednesday–Sunday 11 am to 5 pm and until 9 pm on Thursdays. Open Tuesday, February 16 (school break week) from 11 am to 5 pm. Closed Mondays and all other Tuesdays.

Admission: \$10; college students with ID and senior citizens, \$6; children 6–18, \$5. Always free to members, University of Rochester students, and children 5 and under. Half-price admission Thursdays from 5–9 pm is made possible by ExxonMobil Chemical Company and Monroe County.



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PICTURED (FROM TOP): Woman’s kimono with rose motif (Taisho period, 1912–1926). Machine-spun pongee silk.
Woman’s kimono with Empire State building motif (Early Showa period, 1930s). Machine-spun pongee silk.
Detail of woman’s formal kimono with cranes and Chinese bellflowers (Taisho period, 1920s). Silk crepe.
Young boy’s kimono with car, train and puppy motifs. (Early Showa period, 1930s–40s). Wool.



March 4, 2010

NATIONALLY TOURING SHOW EXPLORES LAST YEARS OF “LIVING” JAPANESE KIMONO *Fashioning Kimono* Features Bold, Vibrant Designs from Early to Mid 20th Century



Woman's kimono (Taisho period, 1920s). Machine-spun pongee silk.

ROCHESTER, NY — Well into the last century, Japan's traditional national dress—the *kimono*—was worn by men, women and children of all social classes. Deceptively simple in concept—a one-piece, front-wrap garment with a straight silhouette—the *kimono* lent itself to endless variations in color, pattern and design that signaled age, gender, status, occasion, even the change of seasons.

A nationally touring exhibition that opens January 31 at the Memorial Art Gallery features nearly 100 extraordinary examples from the famed Montgomery Collection in Lugano, Switzerland. *Fashioning Kimono: Art Deco and Modernism in Japan* brings together everyday garments; intricately embroidered ceremonial robes; boys' *kimono* stenciled with cars, airplanes and battleships; and colorful Art Deco patterns heralding the emergence of Japan's “new woman.”

All were created between the 1890s and the 1950s, a dynamic period when technological advances in silk making and the influence of Western styles resulted in an explosion of bold and vibrant designs.

This period was also to be the last era of the “living” kimono. After World War II, more affordable Western clothing became the norm, though the kimono continues to be worn for formal events such as weddings and funerals, and increasingly as a fashion statement.

Fashioning Kimono is organized and circulated by Art Services International, Alexandria, VA. Support for the national tour and catalog has been provided by The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation. In Rochester, the exhibition is made possible by the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery and the Robert L. and Mary L. Sproull Fund.

At MAG, it remains on view through April 4.

Programs and events

These include an exhibition party (January 30), two lectures (January 31 and March 18), a collectors' show and tell (March 14), a celebration of Japanese culture (March 19) and a family day (March 28). For details on these and other programs, see attached release or visit mag.rochester.edu/calendar.

Catalog

Fashioning Kimono is accompanied by a fully-illustrated color catalog edited by Annie Van Assche, guest curator of the exhibition. Available in softcover at the Gallery Store, \$49.95.

Kimono dressing

An adult *kimono* is constructed from a single bolt of fabric, approximately 13.5 yards long and 15.75 inches wide. The garment consists of four main strips of fabric: a long, continuous panel drapes vertically over each shoulder and two shorter panels form the sleeves. Loose and open sleeves allow air to pass through, regulating one's comfort level. When made of open-weave silk or plant fibers, such as linen, the *kimono* wicks the body's moisture away from the skin, keeping one cool and dry in the summer. Lined or heavier fabric keeps the body warm in cold weather.

The garment is wrapped left over right and held closed with a sash called an *obi*. Women wrap the *obi* and tie it in the back in a variety of ways, depending on the occasion, the wearer's age and marital status. Young, single

more...

women wear the longest sleeves, reaching almost to the wearer's ankles. Older married women's sleeves are the shortest. Men wear a narrow sash which wraps slightly below the waist and is tied in a simple knot in the back. One who knows the language of the kimono will be able to discern the age and social standing of the wearer.

National tour

Fashioning Kimono opened in April 2008 at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and traveled to the John and Mabel Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, FL; the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art in Gainesville, FL; the Tyler (TX) Museum of Art; and the Society of the Four Arts, Palm Beach, FL. Other venues after the Memorial Art Gallery include the Birmingham (AL) Museum of Art and the Museum of Arts and Science in Macon, GA.

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FASHIONING KIMONO PROGRAMS & EVENTS

EXHIBITION PARTY

Saturday, January 30, 8–11 pm

Supporter members and above free; associate members \$10; non-members and guests \$20*

- Dance to high-energy music by Rochester Brass & Electric.
- Relax to jazz with Kind of Blue.
- Hear the sounds of the koto, a traditional Japanese stringed instrument played by Debbie McCullough.
- Enjoy ikebana and origami demonstrations.
- Sample Japanese teas presented by Wegmans Tea Bar and sake presented by the House of Gekkeikan and Southern Wine & Spirits of Upstate New York.

* *This party is sure to be a sellout! Advance tickets required. For recorded information call 585.276.8901.*

LECTURES

Sunday, January 31, 2 pm, auditorium (booksigning to follow)

Included in MAG admission (free to members)

Annie Van Assche, guest curator of *Fashioning Kimono* and editor and principal author for the exhibition catalog, speaks on “The Kimono and Western Dress in the Early 20th Century: A Revolution in Fashion.”

Thursday, March 18, 7 pm / included in MAG admission (free to members)

Brian J. Larson, an assistant professor in RIT’s School of Film and Animation, gives an illustrated lecture on *animé*, a style of animation that originated in Japan. Larson was formerly lead animator at Celluloid Studios, where he animated and directed television icons like Tony the Tiger, Cap’n Crunch and the Keebler Elves. Brian left Celluloid to open his own studio and added clients like Disney, Cartoon Network and Sony. His award-winning projects are primarily hand-drawn 2D films.

SHOW AND TELL: JAPAN

Sunday, March 14, 2–3:30 pm / included in MAG admission (free to members)

Join noted Japanese art dealer and scholar Merlin Dailey and collector David Spence for an informal discussion. Bring in your own prints, ceramics and collectibles (no appraisals). For information call 276-9868.

SAKE TASTING

Thursday, March 19, 5–7 pm

This special event is offered in conjunction with Brian Larson’s lecture (above).

Sponsored by the Gallery Council with support from the House of Gekkeikan and Southern Wine & Spirits of Upstate New York; for tickets and information call 585.276.8910.



SPECIAL EVENT

Friday, March 19, 9:30 am–4 pm / \$75

“Traditions and Translations: A Celebration of Japanese Culture” features workshops on art, textiles, origami, gardens and bonsai; a luncheon; a boutique market; and more.

Sponsored by the Gallery Council to benefit MAG. For tickets and information call 585.276.8910.

FAMILY DAY

Asian Pacific American Heritage Family Day

Sunday, March 28, noon–5 pm / free admission

All ages will enjoy this popular annual event, which includes music and dance performances, storytelling, tours of *Fashioning Kimono*, international exhibits and demonstrations.

EXHIBITION TOURS

Sunday, January 31, 1, 2 and 3 pm

Fridays, February 5–April 2, 2 pm

Sundays, February 7–April 4, 1 pm

These docent-led tours of the exhibition are included in MAG admission (free to members)

ART APPRECIATION CLASS

Wednesdays, January 27, February 3 and February 10, 10:30 am–noon / \$78 (MAG members \$70)

“Glimpses into Japanese Art, Life and Culture.” Inspired by her recent experience living in Tokyo, Creative Workshop instructor Lucy Durkin will lead students on a virtual tour of Japan.

Registration is required; call the Creative Workshop, 585.276.8959

ESPECIALLY FOR EDUCATORS

*Wednesday, February 3, 4:30–7 pm / \$30**

“Fashioning Kimono.” This inservice for art, ELA and social studies teachers includes visits to the exhibition, discussions and classroom activities.

Preregistration is required; contact Kerry Donovan, 585.276.8971 (kdonovan@mag.rochester.edu).

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Chamber Concert

Sunday, January 31, 7:30 pm

Chamber Music Rochester celebrates *Fashioning Kimono* with a concert that includes works by Akira Yuyama, Toru Takemitsu and Maurice Ravel. For ticket information call 585-377-6770 or visit www.chambermusicrochester.org.