

Pacific Northwest

Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum


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Exhibition of Renowned Japanese Textile Artists at Pacific Northwest Quilt and Fiber Arts Museum

LA CONNER, Wash. ~ The Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum will be exhibiting the work of Japanese textile artist Shoji Yamamura and his assistant Makiko Kakihara from March 28 through April 20, 2018. This exhibition is part of a regional visit by Yamamura and Kakihara, co-sponsored and supported by Seattle Art Museum and Western Washington University.

Textile artist Shoji Yamamura grew up in a household surrounded by the fragrance of natural indigo dyes. His family has been creating textiles in this tradition for several generations. Yamamura learned the art of dyeing tied threads, and weaving them to produce this distinctive textile. He is an innovator in his art, using gradations of color and developing new ways of using natural dyes. In 1996, he was named a successor to the Important Intangible Cultural Asset of Kurume Kasuri. His award-winning work has been exhibited widely in Japan, as well as in Washington DC and New York.

This exhibition, entitled “Kurume Ikat Kimono – Shoji Yamamura and Makiko Kakihara,” will focus on Kurume kasuri, a type of woven double ikat, that is considered one of Japan’s great cultural treasures. This traditional textile craft has been produced for more than 200 years in Kurume, on Japan’s southernmost island of Kyushu. It is a double ikat weaving process in which cotton threads are intricately tied and dyed before they are set up on the loom. When woven, they create patterns in the cloth. The museum will display two kimono and four lengths of kimono fabric designed and made by Yamamura, as well as a kimono and fabric length made by his award-winning assistant Makiko Kakihara.

Join us at the Pacific Northwest Quilt and Fiber Arts Museum for a free Artists Reception on Friday, April 20, from 1-3 pm; meet the artists and enjoy an artist guided tour of this beautiful work. Yamamura will give a lecture, entitled “A Living Treasure of Japanese Textiles,” at the Seattle Art Museum, Saturday, April 21, 10-11:30 am. These events are open to the public. Yamamura will also conduct a classroom workshop in the Fibers/Fabrics program in the Department of Art at Western Washington University and a 2-day workshop at Seattle Art Museum (sold out). Links to the Seattle Art Museum [lecture](#) and [workshop](#).

The museum is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. It'll be open daily in April for the Tulip Festival. About: The Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum (formerly the La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum) is a world-class exhibition facility with comprehensive and stimulating educational programs in all fiber arts. Our collection focuses on the textiles of the Pacific Rim that both exemplify tradition and reflect contemporary trends. The Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum is a nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization.

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Caption for Yamamura photo: Textile artist Shoji Yamamura at the loom weaving Kurume kasuri ikat textile; Kyushu, Japan (photograph courtesy Shoji Yamamura).

Caption for Yamamura kimono: “Far,” by Shoji Yamamura (2016); Kurume kasuri ikat kimono. (photograph courtesy Shoji Yamamura).

Caption for kimono detail: Detail, “Far” by Shoji Yamamura (2016); length of Kurume kasuri ikat kimono cloth (photograph courtesy Susan Torntore, PWNQFAM).



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