**Currently in the Gallery…**

**Japan and Fashion: Impact and Influence**

An array of over 18 Japanese kimonos along with fashion designs from contemporary Japanese designers form the current exhibition at the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery. The exhibit, curated by Professor Barbara Trout, will be on display until March 28. The exhibit opens with an examination of traditional Japanese dress. A large number of the items in the exhibition are representative of the generosity of Kathryn Ericksen Lohr, a graduate of the college who now resides in Minnesota. She and her husband lived in Tokyo for a brief time during their professional careers. The exhibit explores the traditional Japanese approach to dress and its influence on Western fashion in the 20th century. Garments show how elements of the kimono and Japanese craft have been integrated into contemporary Western dress. The rich color and exotic patterns inherent in these garments are only a part of the story. It is the fine textiles and simple structure that envelopes the body that established the unique aesthetic which was considered a form of modern dress in the West as early as the 1880s. The exhibit displays contemporary garments by celebrated Japanese designer, Hanae Mori, a gift from Kathryn E. Lohr. Another highlight is the exquisite wedding kimono acquired by the Thomas Woods family in the 1970s donated by Avery Woods. There are several experimental garments in the exhibition by such designers as Issey Miyake and Rei Kawakubo.

A reception and kimono sale sponsored by the Friends of the Hillestad Gallery will be held at the Home Economics building on March 20th and will feature a presentation at 6pm in room 11 by Jay Rich, a local collector of Japanese textiles. Students will be modeling original designs influenced by Japanese traditions as well as the avant-garde dress of contemporary Japanese designers.
From the Director ~
I feel deeply moved at the foresight, dedication, and determination of the Board of the Friends of the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery to shepherd in an historic endowed fund to support the mission of the Gallery and Historic Collections of the Department of Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design. Lisa Warren, president of the Friends, has been steadfast in her resolve to create an enduring base to generate continued interest and financial support for the work of the Gallery. The human resources required to present, preserve and document the creative textile and apparel work of our time and our ancestors’ time cannot be done without knowledgeable, skilled, and dedicated human effort. This fund is unique because it provides the foundation for insuring that the department is able to hire just those people in the future and enable talented students to develop their expertise in the care and presentation of textiles and apparel in a professional setting. Thank you!

This spring I am delighted to announce several exciting programs. Dr. Barbara Trout has been working closely with donors to build our historic costume collection and some of those recent acquisitions will be on view in the upcoming show she is curating called Japan and Fashion: Impact and Influence. We are grateful to the donors who make our collection so rich and varied. Both faculty and graduate students are able to mount exhibitions exploring diverse topics of historical interest. Jay Rich, past president of the Friends, will give a public talk at a reception for the show, hosted by the Friends, Thursday, March 20 at 6pm in room 11.1 of the Home Economics Building.

In April, we welcome the Complex Weavers, when we sponsor a presentation in Kearney May 3 by Robert Hillestad entitled “Threads of Inspiration and Celebration.” Our Textiles Sale will be held August 16 in Lincoln and Friends members will have an opportunity to shop before we open to the public. We are busy planning additional events and receptions that you do not want to miss!

Our recent fundraising efforts have been outstanding which, in part, have enabled the Friends to start an endowed fund at the University of Nebraska Foundation. This fund will benefit and support the Gallery and the Historic Costume and Textile Collection in the Department of TMFD and will be used to enhance the student learning experience in perpetuity. I would like to thank the current Board for their commitment to make this lasting legacy a reality. Information on how you can support this fund will be featured in our next newsletter.

As my biennium comes to a close, I want to express to you that it has been my privilege to serve as President of the Friends of the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery. As I pass the gavel to Mary Eisenhart, I feel confident that she will successfully continue the mission of the Friends with your help. We will strive to have a positive impact on the students and the community around us.

As ikat tapestry weaver Mary Zicafose stated at her public lecture last month, we don’t know how lucky we are to have a gallery that features only textiles and fiber art! We hope you will share our passion for textiles and join us at a Gallery exhibit, reception, or upcoming event.

Wendy Weiss
Gallery Director

Message from the President ~
Membership is the lifeblood of any organization and that is especially true for the Friends of the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery. Strong membership will ensure the vitality of the Gallery for years to come because a large percentage of our dues goes directly to the Gallery to feature the designs of students and faculty, serve as a venue for exhibiting the historic costume and textile collections, and accommodate the work of invited textile artists. If you join or renew by March 31, you will be eligible for a drawing for 2 current Friends members to attend the UNL Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design (TMFD) student runway show at the Union April 25, which will include cocktails, dinner and a reserved seat valued at $100. compliments of the Friends.

The Friends will focus on our members in central Nebraska when we sponsor a presentation in Kearney May 3 by Robert Hillestad entitled “Threads of Inspiration and Celebration.” Our Textiles Sale will be held August 16 in Lincoln and Friends members will have an opportunity to shop before we open to the public. We are busy planning additional events and receptions that you do not want to miss!

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Wendy Weiss
Friends of the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery, President
lwarr@nbrr.com

Focus on Founding Friend Joan Laughlin
Founding Friend Joan Laughlin, Professor Emerita, Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design, retired from UNL in 2002. Prior to her retirement, she held an appointment as research scientist in the Agricultural Research Division, IANR, and led internationally acclaimed effort studying decontamination of protective apparel of pesticide applicators.

Dr. Laughlin served as Department Chair from 1982-1990 and as Associate Dean, College of Education and Human Sciences from 1990 until her retirement. She holds degrees from Pennsylvania State (Ph.D.), Iowa State (M.S.) and the College of St. Mary, Omaha (B.S.).

In 1984, she was awarded the AHEA Foundation/MAN-Made Fibers Award for Excellence in Research in Textiles. She received the USDA Distinguished Service Award in 1994 (one of a limited number of women and the only textile scientist to be named to this award), and was named to the Gamma Sigma Delta Award of Merit in 1996. She was named the 1998 ADEC Outstanding Educational Program Award for leadership to the highly successful Interdepartmental Human Sciences M.S. degree delivered at a distance and her efforts in founding the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance and recognized in 2007 for her leadership. Dr. Laughlin is a volunteer genealogist for the International Quilt Study Center and Museum, and also has served as a volunteer docent and gallery host. In October 2012, she delivered her first research in quilt history. We are grateful to Joan for being a Founding Friend and for continuing her support.

Introducing Betty Starr
Bitty Starr serves the Board through her background in education, teaching experience, and a wide range of leadership, marketing, and managerial skills. She is a graduate of UNL Past President of Fedde Residence Hall, and a member of Phi Upsilon Omicron and Omicron Nu. Prior to retirement, she taught various Home Economics courses for the public school systems of Lincoln, Nebraska and Bedford, Iowa.

For the past 11 years she has been particularly active in FriendShop Force International, a nonprofit cultural exchange organization promoting friendship and goodwill through a program of home stay exchange. At the heart of the served 10 years on the Board of Directors and participated in World Conferences in Hamburg, Germany, Washington, D.C., and New Orleans at which she was a presenter. She travels extensively in the U.S. and abroad for cultural enrichment and is particularly interested in architecture, textiles, art and vintage farm machinery. As President and CEO of the Nominal Foundation, she supports numerous professional and community organizations. She lives in Lincoln with her husband Duane.

Introducing Helen Sellentin
Helen Sellentin joined the Friends Board a year ago. Helen’s expertise as an educator spanned 43 years as she served students from high school to college level, including the University of Nebraska. In part, her focus was teaching design, fitting and garment construction. She even designed and created her own wedding dress in 1964! Helen’s teaching career has been recognized with five separate teaching awards including the Christa McAuliffe Award.

To say Helen is active in her community is an understatement. Helen has been President of seven organizations and has served on five boards. Perhaps her volunteer duties for the National Textile Symposium in 2011, was the seed of inspiration in joining the Board, where she serves on the membership committee. Her interest in textiles makes her a good match for our Board. Helen is active in her church, Lincoln Rotary and alumni associations at the Universities of Nebraska and Kansas State.

Helen’s pride and joy is her husband Jerry of 49 years, their three children and their spouses, and their five grandchildren. Helen enjoys traveling nationally and internationally, is a pilot, an avid reader and loves bicycling.
Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery
Calendar 2014

April 7- May 9, 2014
Complexity
Biennial International Juried Exhibit organized by Complex Weavers

This exhibit features works that employ complex weave structures that interlace threads and fibers in ways beyond plain weave. Complex Weavers is dedicated to expanding the boundaries of hand weaving, to encourage weavers to develop their own creative styles, to inspire through research, documentation, and the sharing of innovative ideas.

Jurors: Marguerite Gingras, Alice Schlein, and Wendy Weiss

May 19-September 5, 2014
Yard / Zone / Field

Sarah Wagner, from Banglatown, Detroit finds inspiration in her constantly changing neighborhood. Detroit is home to the dynamic fusion of naturally occurring flora, surviving domestic gardens amidst re-greening spaces, increasing pheasant and fox populations and heaping doses of unsupervised dumping. Paper and tape, fabric and thread reflect Wagner’s philosophical imperatives fusing impermanence, degradability and adaptivity.

The artist will offer a workshop in May on constructing three dimensional stitched forms using intuitive, non-mathematical design process. See insert for details.

Annual meeting of the Friends of the Gallery will be May 18, 2014 featuring Sarah Wagner, guest speaker.
Avery Woods and Family Donate Distinctive Garments to the Historic Costume Collection, Department of Textiles, Merchandising & Fashion Design at UNL

Avery Woods of Lincoln recently donated distinctive designer and custom made clothing that belonged to her and her family to the Historic Costume Collection. Curator Dr. Barbara Trout was excited to receive this gift because it tells the story of a prominent Nebraska family. Some of the garments are from the 1920s - 1930s and were worn by Avery’s grandmother, Sara Woods. These museum-quality dresses made of beautiful materials, have detailed beading in complex motifs, intricate applique and silk embroidery. They will serve as a basis for student appreciation of fashion design and garment construction from this period. Graduate students and faculty will be able to do research on structure and detail. All of the Woods garments will serve as inspiration for original student designs. In addition, these complement the pieces that are already in the Collection given by Avery’s mother, Marjorie.

Avery’s donated couture apparel is in the process of being carefully preserved, documented, and photographed. It is our obligation as stewards of these important garments to share them with our community and eventually to the greater community worldwide through the Department’s digital database. With proper financial support to retain experts in archival documentation, the Friends hope that our newly created Foundation Fund will grow in order to expedite this process.

This donation will serve as a catalyst for future exhibitions in the Hillestad Gallery. Wouldn’t it be fun to see fashions from three generations of one family spanning over 70 years! Thank you, Avery, for your most generous gift.

UNL Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design Biennial Student Runway Show

April 25, 2014
Centennial Ballroom at Nebraska Union, 8 pm

Collaborative production by students and faculty, featuring talented students in:
Fashion Design
Hospitality-Restaurant-Tourism Management & Catering Programs
Johnny Carson School of Theater and Film
Glenn Korff School of Music
Department of Art & Art History

$10 general unreserved seating
$30 limited reserved premium seating
$100 limited tickets for pre-show cocktails, dinner and reserved premium seating
5:30pm, Regency Suites

Tickets available online at UNL Marketplace beginning March 7, 2014
For more information, call the Department of Textiles 402-472-2911

Save these Dates

March 20 Japan and Fashion exhibit talk by Jay Rich, reception and kimono sale sponsored by the Friends, 6 pm, room 11 Home Ec building. Students will be modeling original designs influenced by Japanese traditions.
April 6 Complexity exhibit opening reception 1-3 pm
April 23 UNL Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design student runway show
May 3 Friends Kearney event at UNK Frank House 1:30 – 3:30pm features reception preceded by Robert Hillestad’s presentation “Threads of Inspiration and Celebration”
May 18 Friends annual meeting 2 pm, followed by guest speaker Sarah Wagner and reception
May 19 Yard / Zone / Field Sarah Wagner exhibit opens in the Gallery
May 29 Give to Lincoln Day – support your favorite nonprofit organization
August 16 Textiles Sale – oodles of fabric, yarn, notions, craft kits, books, and more!

Upcoming events – details to follow in our fall newsletter:
“Members Only” Bus trip, back by popular demand, is currently in the planning stages.

Acquired Taste V, a gala fundraiser showcasing exquisite textile art from students and the community.