

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Textile Museum of Canada presents the exhibition
“Artistry in Silk: The Kimono of Itchiku Kubota”
February 7–May 14, 2018

Opening Reception: February 7, 2018 | 6–7:30 pm

Curated by Jacqueline Marx Atkins and organized by the International Chodiev Foundation.

The Textile Museum of Canada is pleased to host this celebrated collection of 41 elaborately handcrafted kimono by internationally acclaimed artist Itchiku Kubota (1917-2003). Made between 1976 and 2003, Kubota’s breathtaking creations bring new life to a complex, 16th century technique known as *tsujigahana*, a rare combination of dyeing and drawing that was once thought lost forever. In his production of sumptuous kimono that feature what Kubota came to call “*Itchiku tsujigahana*,” the artist has expanded contemporary ideas of landscape as subject matter, and the traditional kimono as a poignant, longstanding icon of Japanese culture, assuring his legacy as a ground-breaking artist who challenged existing art forms technically, visually and conceptually. *Artistry in Silk* includes selections from his life’s work *Symphony of Light*, a series of kimonos which, when installed side-by-side, form a panoramic meditation of the four seasons – a representation of the artist’s reverence for nature.

"The Textile Museum of Canada welcomes Itchiku Kubota’s textiles onto Canadian soil on the occasion of the 90th Anniversary of Japan-Canada diplomatic relations," says the Museum's Executive Director, Emma Quin. "Mr. Kubota's contributions to the dynamics of tradition and innovation are at the heart of our activities, and will appeal to Canadians who have a passion for seeing world cultures through textiles."

Itchiku Kubota's masterpieces have been widely exhibited in museums throughout the world, including Austria, Belgium, England, France, Germany, Holland, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Russia, Spain and the USA. His 1995 exhibition at the Canadian Museum of Civilization (Ottawa) was met with extraordinary enthusiasm.

Exhibition curator Dr. Jacqueline Marx Atkins will be present at the opening reception of *Artistry in Silk* and will give a public lecture on Thursday, February 8, 6-7:30pm at the Textile Museum of Canada. She will be available for interviews February 6-8, 2018.

Artistry in Silk is presented on the occasion of the 90th Anniversary of Japan-Canada diplomatic relations in 2018-2019. The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated colour catalogue, available in the Museum Shop.

The Textile Museum of Canada would like to thank the William R. and Shirley Beatty Charitable Foundation for the lead sponsorship that made the exhibition and the catalogue possible. The Museum is grateful to The Japan Foundation in Toronto for their generous support.

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About the Textile Museum of Canada

The Textile Museum of Canada has a 40-year history of exploring ideas and building cultural understanding through the universal medium of textiles. Connecting international textile traditions to contemporary art and design, this national museum is one of Canada's most engaging arts institutions, welcoming thousands of visitors from across the country and around the world each year. The Museum's permanent collection spans 2,000 years and consists of over 14,000 artifacts from about 200 countries and regions, uniquely positioning the Museum to speak to global culture as well as our increasingly global communities.

A leader in the digitization of collections and interactive environments, the TMC is recognized for its innovation in the development of landmark educational, research and creative initiatives.

Media Inquiries

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