

The Cutting Edge

NEW EXHIBITION AT THE TEXTILE MUSEUM OF CANADA

November 19, 2008 - July 7, 2009

Curated by Patricia Bentley

Opening reception: Wednesday November 19, 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Remarks at 6:45 pm.

Generously supported by:

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P R I M A V E R A

TORONTO - Drawing primarily from the Textile Museum of Canada's global collection *The Cutting Edge* tells the **story of the garment – designed to protect, cover and beautify the body**. From ancient uncut fabric, ornately decorated and flowing kimono to heavily pieced and shaped European garments, *The Cutting Edge* shows the transitions of fashion through time and around the world.

The exhibition, focusing on the process of making a 2-dimensional textile cover a 3-dimensional moving object (the body), is an **exploration of human ingenuity**. While its manufacturing is a feat of engineering, a garment's capability to carry and translate meaning is even more fascinating.

The Cutting Edge will explore **clothing as communicator**. Whether overtly reflective of cultural beliefs and attitudes or subtly suggestive and ambiguous, how we choose to dress is filled with meaning. The exhibition explores this idea through examining the differences between men's and women's garments as well as **what parts of the body are concealed, revealed or exaggerated – always with a global perspective**.

The discussion of fashion would not be complete without a long, hard look into the future. Fashion can be a conforming element reinforcing societal attitudes, but at the same time fashion can be revolutionary. *The Cutting Edge* features TMC artifacts in conversation with contemporary objects that range from the **haute couture of Issey Miyake and Yoshiaki Hishinuma**, to the fashion designs of **Rashmi Varma and Yumi Eto** and the work of artists **Lyn Carter** and **Lily Yung**.

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For additional information, interviews or visuals:

Contact Beth Sharpe at 416 599 5321 x. 2239 or bethsharpe@textilemuseum.ca

Textile Museum of Canada
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T (416) 599-5321 F (416) 599-2911
www.textilemuseum.ca
Transit: St. Patrick Station



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Museum Hours

Open 7 days a week 11 am – 5 pm
Wednesdays 11 am – 8 pm

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Textile Seminar: Garments from Around the World

Wednesday November 26, 6:30pm

Enjoy a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at artifacts from the TMC's collection with curators Natalia Nekrassova and Roxane Shaughnessy.

Members \$12, Non-members \$15, Full-time students Pay-What-You-Can.

Advance registration is required, class size is limited. To register, call 416-599-5321 x 2221

Curator's Tour

Wednesday January 21, 6:30 pm

Join Patricia Bentley in the galleries for a discussion of *The Cutting Edge*.

Free with admission.

Interchange: Taking Shape with Rashmi Varma, Lily Yung, and Patricia Bentley

Wednesday March 4, 6:30 pm

Join designers Lily Yung and Rashmi Varma and curator Patricia Bentley in the galleries for a lively discussion about the exhibition *The Cutting Edge*.

Members \$10, Non-members \$12, Full-time students Pay-What-You-Can.

Tickets may be purchased at the TMC's front desk. Please arrive early, seating is limited.

Artist Talk: Lyn Carter

Friday March 20, 6:30pm

Members \$10, Non-members \$12, Full-time students Pay-What-You-Can.

Tickets may be purchased at the TMC's front desk. Please arrive early, seating is limited.

Workshop: Free-form Patternmaking with Lyn Carter

Saturday March 21, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Participants will learn a step-by-step process for creating complex three-dimensional forms out of cloth. Carter will give an introduction to free form patternmaking with paper and demonstrate stiffening cloth with tailoring materials. The final pieces will be machine sewn. Lyn Carter is a visual artist with a strong textile background.

Members \$50, Non-members \$65, Full-time students and youth \$40, Materials \$TBA

Advance registration is required, class size is limited. To register, call 416-599-5321 x2221

Textile Seminar: Garments from around the World

Wednesday April 8, 6:30pm

Enjoy a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at artifacts from the TMC's collection with curators Natalia Nekrassova and Roxane Shaughnessy.

Members \$12, Non-members \$15, Full-time students Pay-What-You-Can.

Advance registration is required, class size is limited. To register, call 416-599-5321 x 2221.

Curator's Tour

Wednesday April 29, 6:30 pm

Join Patricia Bentley in the galleries for a discussion of *The Cutting Edge*.

Free with admission.

Lecture: Made to Measure with Alison Matthews David

Wednesday May 20, 6:30 pm

Alison Matthews David is an Assistant Professor of Fashion History and Theory at Ryerson University. She will give a talk on the radical changes which occurred in tailoring from the eighteenth to the nineteenth centuries. New concepts of the body and methods of measurement ushered in after the French Revolution resulted in standardized sizing systems which remain with us to this day.

Lecture / Talk: Members \$10, Non-members \$12, Full-time students Pay-What-You-Can.

Tickets may be purchased at the TMC's front desk. Please arrive early, seating is limited.

Curator's Tour

Wednesday June 17, 6:30 pm

Join Patricia Bentley in the galleries for a discussion of *The Cutting Edge*.

Free with admission.

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