

Drawing with Scissors

Molas from Kuna Yala

NEW EXHIBITION AT THE TEXTILE MUSEUM OF CANADA

July 21, 2010 to February 13, 2011

Curated by Max Allen

Join us for the opening reception: Wednesday July 21, 6:30 – 8:00 pm; remarks 6:45 pm

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TORONTO – *Drawing with Scissors: Molas from Kuna Yala* explores the traditional art of mola-making among the Kuna, a people who live on the small islands just off the Caribbean coast of Panama. Featuring nearly 200 of these brilliantly coloured women’s blouses and appliqué panels, this exhibition showcases the evocative geometric and pictorial patterns of this longstanding Kuna tradition.

On display are not only some of the earliest known molas, but some that were made in the last five years. Depicting everything that the Kuna see around them, from ancient plant and animal spirits to reimagined television news and Disney characters, these beautiful textiles, new and old, provide a glimpse into the Kuna understanding of the world. They also shed light on traditional textile techniques. Mola designs are drawn, cut and appliquéd by Kuna women in a complex technique that actually uses the simplest technology: just needles and thread – and scissors.

Drawing with Scissors: Molas from Kuna Yala traces the continued importance of this unique cultural art form and features the work of Domitila De León De Fernandez, the great-granddaughter of the leader of the 1925 Kuna Revolution.

Follow the history of the Kuna people, from the Panamanian government’s attempted banning of mola blouses at the turn of the 20th Century, to the 1925 Revolution, to the establishment of an autonomous Kuna territory, where, in order to protect old and successful traditions from the negative impacts of globalization, no outsider may own property. Told through their textiles, this remarkable story is sure to fascinate.

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For additional information, interviews or visuals contact: Alexandra Pearcey, Marketing Associate at 416.599.5321 x 2239 or apearcey@textilemuseum.ca

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

Programs and Events:

Curator's Tour

Wednesday August 11, 6:30 pm

Join Max Allen in the galleries for a tour of *Drawing with Scissors*.
Free with admission.

Workshop: Mola-making with Domitila De León De Fernandez

Saturday August 21, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Domitila De León De Fernandez has been making molas since she was a girl, and learned from her mother and all the women in her community in Ustupu, Kuna Yala, Panama. She is the great-granddaughter of one of the leaders of the Kuna revolution, Nele Kantule. Explore the intricate art of mola-making with a Kuna expert.
Members \$57, Non-members \$74, Full-time students \$45.
Advance registration is required, class size is limited. To register, call 416-599-5321 x 2244.

Film Screening: Michel Perrin's *Molakana: Sewing the World*

Wednesday September 22, 6:30 pm

French ethnologist Michel Perrin saw a mola for the first time in 1975 and became enthralled. 28 years later he made *Molakana: Sewing the World*, a film about molas and the Kuna people. Come see views of the San Blas Islands and bright scenes of molas being made in this homage to Kuna women and their artwork.

Film length: 52 minutes.

Free for TMC Members and Full-time students, Non-members \$10.

Advance tickets may be purchased in person at the TMC's front desk. Please arrive early, seating is limited.

Lecture: Travelogue with Peter Jarrett

Wednesday October 20, 6:30 pm

Come hear Jarrett's description of his travels and observations of Kuna Yala, where molas are made. His talk will be illustrated with the extraordinary photos he has taken over the last several years while living part-time on his boat off the coast of Panama.

Free for TMC Members and Full-time students, Non-members \$15.

Advance tickets may be purchased in person at the TMC's front desk. Please arrive early, seating is limited.

Textile Seminar: Appliqué and Patchwork from around the World

Wednesday November 17, 6:30 pm

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

Members \$20, Non-members \$25, Full-time students Pay-What-You-Can.

Advance registration is required, class size is limited. To register, call 416-599-5321 x 2244

Quilt Sunday Visit with the workroom

Sunday January 30, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Once a month Toronto's sew & craft by the hour space, the workroom, hosts a Quilt Sunday. In January, Quilt Sunday will go on a field trip to the TMC for a special tour of the exhibition *Drawing with Scissors* followed by a behind-the-scenes look at appliqué and reverse appliqué quilts and other textiles from the TMC's collection. Co-presented with the workroom: theworkroom.ca

Tickets are \$15.

Advance registration is required, tour size is limited. To register, call 416-599-5321 x 2244.