

PRESS RELEASE

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Wrapped in Color: Kimonos by Tim Harding, Jackets by Jon Eric Riis Opening March 16....extended through September 24, 2006



Bellevue, WA - Bellevue Arts Museum presents the exhibition *Wrapped in Color: Kimonos by Tim Harding, Jackets by Jon Eric Riis* opening March 16 through June 18, 2006. The exhibition brings together a small yet mesmerizing selection of garments complementing Bellevue Arts Museum's *Rozome Masters of Japan* through works that reveal the artists' passions for Asian textile. Four vibrant silk kimonos by Minnesota artist Tim Harding and four opulent jackets by Atlanta artist Jon Eric Riis engage the audience with astounding richness of color, material and structure. The exhibition was organized by Bellevue Arts Museum.

Assembled in graduated layers with invisible stitching to produce contrasting edges of light and shadow and breathtaking color gradations, Tim Harding's cut silk kimonos are technically extraordinary. In the 1970s, Harding developed his signature "free-reverse appliqué" process in which he layers, sews, cuts and frays dyed silks. The solid colors in juxtaposition, the inherent grid of the layered silk, and the smooth interplay of surface and structure, conjure up a feeling of movement, tantalize the eyes and attract the touch.

"I want to create objects that reflect small moments of raw beauty in the natural world," states Tim Harding.

Riis's jackets, inspired by Chinese traditional garment design, demonstrate technical mastery and reveal a confident whimsical touch. Warm and often neutral outsides

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open to reveal strong graphic and ironic images. Riis's phenomenal skill as a draftsman along with attention to every detail of the weaving structure has made him one of the most gifted and celebrated weavers working today. Riis is an expert on historic textiles as well as an artist.

Both Harding and Riis have exhibited widely and their pieces are part of many major permanent collections.

Related Program

Sunday, April 2

Colorful Kimonos: Paper Weaving Workshop for Kids

Artist/Instructor: Stewart Wong

Instructor Stewart Wong will introduce the excitement of weaving colorful papers and other eye-catching materials to create their own woven work of art in the Japanese kimono design tradition. Students will explore color combinations, texture, adding interesting details using stamps and other interesting materials to add beauty and interest. Designs can be inspired by the exhibition, *Wrapped in Color: Kimonos* by Tim Harding, *Jackets* by Jon Eric Riis. Stewart Wong is a mixed-media studio and public artist whose work ranges from paper arts to three-dimensional assemblages and sculpture. Currently he is a Roster Artist with the City of Seattle and Sound Transit working on public art commissions involving community projects.

12:00 to 3:00 pm

\$2 suggested donation

Museum Auditorium

Front Image: Tim Harding, *Green Wave Kimono*, 1999, cut silk, 64x62".

Photo credit Petronella Ytsma

Bellevue Arts Museum is located at 510 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004. The Museum is at the corner of Bellevue Way NE and NE 6th, south of Lincoln Square and directly across the street from Bellevue Square Shopping Center. Admission is \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors 62 +, Children 6 years and younger are FREE. The Museum's main information line is 425.519.0770.

Bellevue Arts Museum hours of operation:

Tuesday	10 am - 5:30 pm
Wednesday	10 am - 5:30 pm
Thursday	10 am - 5:30 pm
Friday	10 am - 9:00 pm
Saturday	10 am - 5:30 pm
Sunday	11 am - 5:30 pm
Monday	Closed

Bellevue Arts Museum website: www.bellevuearts.org

Bellevue Arts Museum is the Pacific Northwest's center for the exploration of the fine art of craft and design. An emphasis is placed on regional craft artists as part of the national and international conversation on fine craft and design.

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