
This exhibition of approximately 20 garments and accessories from the collection of Mary Baskett drops the visitor into the world of the fashion revolution of the 1980s. Featuring fashion by top Japanese designers Issey Miyake, Yohji Yamamoto and Rei Kawakubo, these garments are not only collected by Mary Baskett, but remain in her wardrobe. Baskett, a former curator at the Cincinnati Art Museum and now an art dealer, collects and wears these iconic pieces that feature the asymmetry, unconventional construction, raw edges, oversized proportions and monochromatic palettes that redefined the western concept of “chic.”

Informed in part by Japanese traditions such as the kimono, the art of origami and traditional textile dyeing techniques, these designers produce radical garments with shapes and textures often incongruous with the natural contours of the human body as perceived by Western cultures. In the 1980s, their designs effectively overthrew existing norms and set the stage for the postmodernist movement in the fashion industry.

The Washington Post called the garments, when shown at the Textile Museum in the fall of 2009, “strangely beautiful and utterly timeless,” and challenged that the garments, “force the wearer and the observer to rethink preconceived ideas about how clothes are supposed to function.”

Miyake, Yamamoto, and Kawakubo remain three of the most influential designers in today's fashion world, and under their tutelage a new generation of Japanese talent has emerged. The Mary Baskett Collection of Japanese Fashion is guest curated by Cynthia Amnéus, Curator of Fashion Arts and Textiles at the Cincinnati Art Museum.
“These garments tell the important story of a revolution in fashion design that impacted the entire industry. Miyake, Yamamoto and Kawakubo combined Japanese aesthetics with advanced textile technology in a way that inspired designers all over the world. We are thrilled to welcome Mary Baskett and her incredible collection to our museum,” says Executive Director of the Crow Collection of Asian Art Amy Lewis Hofland. “Dallas is a fashion city. We have a ready audience eager to see these works, and I am delighted to be able to present them here at the Crow Collection of Asian Art.”

Friends of the Crow Collection are invited to preview The Mary Baskett Collection of Japanese Fashion at an exclusive Members’ Preview Reception including collector Mary Baskett and curator Cynthia Amnéus, Thursday, October 23, 2014. For information on becoming a Friend of the Crow Collection visit crowcollection.org. Art lovers and members can also experience Baskett and Amnéus joined by artists, fashion designers and commentators at a Contemporary Japanese Fashion Symposium scheduled for Saturday, October 25, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Crow Collection of Asian Art. Tickets are $40 for the public; $20 for Friends of the Crow Collection. Registration required at crowcollection.org, detailed information including panelist bios will be online later this summer.

The Crow Collection of Asian Art is open Tuesdays – Thursdays (10 a.m. – 9 p.m.), Fridays – Saturdays (10 a.m. – 6 p.m.), Sundays (12 p.m. – 6 p.m.) and closed on Mondays. Admission is free. For more information, please go to crowcollection.org or call 214-979-6430.

About The Crow Collection of Asian Art

The Crow Collection of Asian Art features a variety of spaces and galleries with changing exhibitions of the arts of China, Japan, India, Korea and Southeast Asia drawn from cultures ancient and contemporary. Just 15 years in operation, this lovingly curated free museum offers a serene setting for quiet reflection in the heart of the Dallas Arts District. The Crow Collection continues to grow in art and service to the Dallas-Fort Worth community with an emphasis on shared learning and fun.

About Mary Baskett

Born in Binghamton, New York and holding a Master’s degree in East Asian art history, Mary Baskett’s frequent travels to Asia brought her into contact with the contemporary Japanese fashion she loves. While curator of prints at the Cincinnati Art Museum, Baskett continued her travels and her collection of Japanese-designed garments quickly grew. In 1977, she opened the Mary Baskett Gallery to showcase her collection of Asian art, which includes hundreds of works of art from Asia and emphasizes Japanese fashion and contemporary photography. Baskett continues to speak and write about Japanese art and artists, and has graciously lent these outstanding pieces from her wardrobe to the Crow Collection of Asian Art.

About the Designers

The three fashion designers most collected by Baskett, Issey Miyake, Yohji Yamamoto and Rei Kawakubo, shocked the fashion industry when they introduced their work to the West in the early 1980s. While they have fostered the next generation of Japanese fashion designers, they also influenced major western designers including Martin Margiela and Ann Demeulemeester, both from Belgium, and Austrian designer Helmut Lang.”

Issey Miyake is best known for his innovative pleated garments introduced in the late 1980s, but his body of work is far more eclectic. Miyake has always been committed to making clothes that are easy to wear and adjustable on the body. He believes that those who wear
his clothing are often partners in the design process. Like Miyake, **Yohji Yamamoto** is famous for creating designs far removed from current trends. Yamamoto’s spare, monochromatic garments are outstanding examples of cut and craftsmanship. His designs are recognized as timeless classics with a twist frequently incorporating menswear details into womenswear. **Rei Kawakubo**, perhaps the most iconoclastic of the designers represented in Baskett’s collection, is founder of the Comme des Garçons label. Known for her deconstructed garments, sometimes lacking a sleeve or other component, Kawakubo’s designs are frequently the most challenging. Her looks are different every season, often originating from abstract concepts that result in clothing that is both eccentric and beautiful.

**IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.**

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