

at the galleries

Brush gets wrapped up in Japan

By Nancy Tuttle
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Kimono by Cindy Hughes

LOWELL — Time-honored traditional Japanese arts, with a contemporary twist, arrive in Lowell this weekend when *Tea, Swords and Stitches: A Contemporary Interpretation of Classic Kimono Design* opens at the Brush Gallery and Artists Studios.

Part of the gallery's Building Community Through Culture Exhibition Series, the show is curated by Lowell fiber artists Cynthia Hughes and Glenn Szegedy and features work by 12 regional artists, sharing their interpretations of classic Japanese kimonos and accouterments, plus Japanese swords and netsuke sculpture. It runs through June 6.

"At first glance, the kimono appears simple in design, but, as with most things Japanese, the simplicity is only on the surface," says Szegedy in press material.

"The work is incredible," Hughes added in press material. "I'm in awe of the beauty and

detail that goes into each piece."

Besides

Szegedy and Hughes, contributors are Beth Anderson, Christine Celozzi, Lynne Chantler, Deirdre Grunwald, Susan Krantz, Ann Lee and Sonja Lee-Austin, Diane Montenegro, Sarah Saulson, Diane Zacaroli Spera and Margot Stage.

The exhibit showcases techniques of silk thread weaving, silk painting, hand painting, quilting and embellishing

fabrics. Several special events during the exhibit include demonstrations in laid sword use, Japanese embroidery and saori weaving, and a lecture on netsuke — small, intricate Japanese sculptures on view to compliment the kimonos. A traditional Japanese tea ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 15, at 2 p.m.

The Brush is at 256 Market St., Lowell. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Free. 978-459-7819 or www.thebrush.org.

