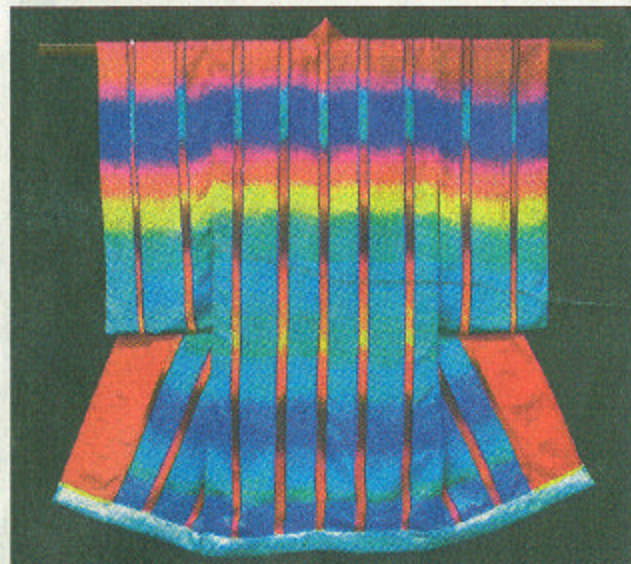


ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

» FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Margaret Smith, Arts & Calendar editor, at chelmsford.events@cnc.com or 978-371-5753.

ON VIEW

Kimono exhibit highlights many Japanese traditions



'Reflections' by Cindy Hughes of Chelmsford, is part of 'Tea, Swords and Stitches.' COURTESY IMAGE

By Margaret Smith
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A new exhibit at the Brush Gallery in Lowell looks at the threads of tradition in Japanese culture.

Cindy Hughes of Chelmsford, co-curator of "Tea, Swords and Stitches: A Contemporary Interpretation of Classic Kimono Design" and a resident artist at the gallery, said, "How it started out was, we wanted to do a kimono show. We invited 12 fiber artists to create their interpretation of the traditional kimono form."

Hughes, who is curating the exhibit with Lowell artist Glenn Szegedy, added, "We have weavers, we have silk painters, a lace knitting...just all textile people to create their version of a kimono."

Related events, such as a

'Things that seem so simple, such as a tea ceremony, have great meaning.'

Cindy Hughes
Exhibit curator, 'Tea, Swords and Stitches'

tea ceremony and a choreographed sword demonstration, are designed to educate the public about traditional Japanese culture.

An opening reception is set for Saturday, April 10, 2 to 4 p.m.

"We brought in a tea ceremony, demonstrations of sword, and a netsuke demonstration," said Hughes.

The netsuke are small, detailed sculptures, tied to the obi, or sash, of a kimono, often depicting creatures or characters in ancient legends.

Hughes added, "As with the Japanese culture, everything has this romantic mysteriousness about it. Things that seem so simple, such as a tea ceremony, have great meaning."

She noted that the tea ceremony, for example, will be conducted by the Kaji Aso of Boston, dedicated to preserving traditional Japanese culture. "The people who have studied the art for years, to perfect their craft, are representing the arts," Hughes said.

Related events include

- Netsuke lecture, Saturday, April 24 2-4 p.m., "Now and Then: Similarities and Differences between Today's Netsuke and Earlier Netsuke" presented by Jeffrey Klotz Chairman of the New York International Netsuke.

- Iaido sword demonstration, Saturday, May 1, 2 p.m., presented by Sensei

Alex Markauskas.

- Embroidery and Saori Weaving Demonstrations, Saturday, May 1, noon-4 p.m., presented by the members of the Japanese Embroiderers Guild and Stacey Piwinski.

- Tea ceremony, Saturday, May 15, 2 p.m., performed by Kaji Aso Studio from Boston.

If you go

'Tea, Swords and Stitches: A Contemporary Interpretation of Classic Kimono Design'

WHERE Brush Gallery, 256 Market St., Lowell

WHEN On view through June 6. Opening reception Saturday, April 10, 2 p.m.

HOURS April 1 to Dec. 31: Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, noon - 4 p.m.

ADMISSION Free
FOR MORE INFORMATION Visit www.thebrush.org or call 978-459-7819.

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