



Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center

New Exhibition Opens Friday, September 21
The Art and Tradition of Kimono
Willamette Heritage Center at the Mill (WHC)

For Immediate Release

What: New WHC Exhibition: ***The Art and Tradition of Kimono***
When: Friday, September 21 – Monday, December 24, 2012
Where: 1313 Mill Street SE, Salem, OR, 97301, 503-585-7012 www.willametteheritage.org.
Cost: FREE with museum admission

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The Art and Tradition of Kimono is part of the WHC's "Year of the Woman" Exhibition Series, honoring the Centennial of Women Gaining the Right to Vote in Oregon.

As part of WHC's ongoing effort to explore the rich interchange between culture and textile, the WHC and the Oregon Nikkei Endowment /Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center are partnering to present this exhibition.

All but three of the kimono on display are from a collection of kimono from Portland's Oregon Nikkei Endowment, that were made by Japanese immigrant Yukimo Omori Tsuboi. Omori came to Portland as Masaichi Tsuboi's bride in 1913. She was a seamstress in Japan, and continued to make kimono for her family once she relocated to the Oregon. She made a new kimono for her daughters every year, until she and her family were sent to a relocation camp during World War II.

Visitors to this special exhibition will have the opportunity to explore the rich fiber arts tradition of kimono that can be found here in Oregon, as well as in Japan; and to discover a tradition that is central to Oregon's Japanese community.

This exhibition is being sponsored in part by Greenbaums Quilted Forest, Tokyo International University of America, Azusa & Carol Suzuki, and Marci Carvalha with additional help from Bon Appetit.

The Willamette Heritage Center at *The Mill*, a unification between Mission Mill Museum and Marion County Historical Society, is a stroll through the history of the Willamette Valley. Its 5-acre campus is home to the 1841 Jason Lee house (arguably the oldest wooden framed house in Oregon), 1841 Willamette Mission Parsonage, 1847 John Boon home, 1858 Pleasant Grove Church and the 1896 Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, named an *American Treasure* by the National Park Service. Since its founding in 1964 as a private non-profit association, Mission Mill Museum has established a reputation as a leader in the preservation and interpretation of Oregon's history. The museum's histories are shared with visitors through daily and group tours, speakers, living history, children's programs, hands-on activities, special events, the museum store and rental facilities. For more information call 503-585-7012 or visit www.willametteheritage.org.

The Willamette Heritage Center is a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is not managed by city, county, state or federal agencies.

Submitted by: Cheryl Clark, Aura Marketing, cclark@auramarketing.com ###