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## THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART SHOWCASES INNOVATIVE CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE TEXTILES

**BALTIMORE, MD** (February 1, 2007) — Since the 1980s, Japan has been at the forefront of a revolution in textiles, combining traditional craft with futuristic technology to create dazzling works of art. NUNO, one of Japan's most influential and innovative textile producers, is known for beautiful, commercially viable fabrics used in interiors, fashion, and art. The Baltimore Museum of Art will display more than a dozen examples of these striking textiles in the exhibition ***NUNO: Japanese Tradition/Innovation in Cloth***, on view March 28–October 7, 2007, in the Jean and Allan Berman Textile Gallery.

Exhibition highlights include pleated and folded polyester inspired by the Japanese art of origami, natural fibers whimsically printed with large paper clips or scattered rubber bands, and ethereal layers of transparent silk interwoven with strips of paper or feathers.

"The NUNO textiles featured at the BMA continue a long tradition of collecting and presenting contemporary art of exceptional quality," said BMA Director Doreen Bolger. "This exhibition joins a roster of shows that provide an international perspective of contemporary art with works by artists from Africa, Italy, and Japan on view this spring."

Founded in 1984 by Junichi Arai and Reiko Sudo, NUNO (Japanese for fabric), has distinguished itself within the experimental, groundbreaking movement by adapting the refined beauty of natural fibers and historical techniques to the sophisticated materials and complex innovations of contemporary technoculture. While tried and true materials of cotton, linen, silk, and polyester are often used, NUNO fabrics also result from the skilled manipulation of less usual elements generated through both high and low technology, such as thin copper wire used in telecommunications or rusted iron nails and sheet metal. The intriguing, sometimes playful results belie the difficulties involved in the process of their creation.

In 2002, the BMA acquired fourteen NUNO fabrics in honor of the late Dena S. Katzenberg, the Museum's Consulting Curator of Textiles from 1969 to 2000. Mrs. Katzenberg admired NUNO and donated an example to the Museum, inspiring the formation of a small collection of these textiles with funds donated in her memory. Since then, and with the generous support of Jane and Worth B. Daniels, more NUNO fabrics were added to broaden the variety of techniques, materials, and designs represented in the collection.

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NUNO fabrics are found in the collections of major museums around the world, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum in New York.

This exhibition is organized by The Baltimore Museum of Art and curated by BMA Curator of Textiles Anita Jones. The exhibition is supported by the BMA's Venable Exhibition Endowment Fund.

## **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

### **Berman Textile Lecture**

#### **NUNO: Tradition and Innovation**

**Sunday, May 20**

**Lecture: 3 p.m., Reception: 4 p.m.**

Chad Patton of Material Things, importers and distributors of NUNO fabrics in America, presents an illustrated lecture recounting the establishment of the company in 1984, product research and development, and the way in which NUNO works in conjunction with traditional weavers all over Japan to produce fabrics that speak to the modern age. The lecture is supported by the BMA's Jean and Allan Berman Textile Fund.

## **THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART**

The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19<sup>th</sup>-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914, the BMA's outstanding collection encompasses 90,000 works of art, including the largest and most significant holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world, as well as masterpieces by Pablo Picasso, Paul Cézanne, and Vincent van Gogh. An expanding collection of contemporary art features iconic post-1960 works by Andy Warhol and Sol LeWitt, as well as exciting acquisitions by artists such as Kara Walker and Olafur Eliasson. The BMA is also recognized for an internationally acclaimed collection of prints, drawings, and photographs from the 15<sup>th</sup> century to the present; European painting and sculpture from Old Masters to the 19<sup>th</sup> century; distinguished American painting, sculpture, and decorative arts and Maryland period rooms; one of the most important African collections in the country; and notable examples of Asian, ancient American, and Pacific art. The BMA's Sculpture Gardens feature a 100-year survey of modern sculpture on nearly three landscaped acres.

## **VISITOR INFORMATION**

General admission to the BMA is free; special exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday–Friday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday–Sunday, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.; and during the first Thursday of every month (except major holidays), 11 a.m.–8 p.m. The Museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located on Art Museum Drive at North Charles and 31<sup>st</sup> Streets, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general Museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit [www.artbma.org](http://www.artbma.org).