

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 20, 2017

Toronto

**Textile Museum of Canada presents the exhibition  
*Diligence and Elegance: The Nature of Japanese Textiles*  
July 12, 2017–January 21, 2018**

**Opening Reception: Wednesday July 12, 2017 | 6:30–8 pm**  
Organised by the Textile Museum of Canada  
Curated by Natalia Nekrassova

*Diligence and Elegance: The Nature of Japanese Textiles* presents over 50 textiles and garments from the Textile Museum of Canada's permanent collection, made in Japan in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Luxurious silk and gold fabrics produced in Kyoto's professional weaving workshops are juxtaposed with domestic indigo-dyed cotton, plant-fibre cloth and silk kimono crafted in an astonishing spectrum of time-honoured techniques that exemplify venerable social and cultural values. The exhibition focuses on the highly refined skills and materials by which textiles have been constructed and decorated, and on how diligence and ingenuity have shaped their timeless beauty. The persistence of traditions seen in such rigorously executed textiles has come to embody the heart of Japanese aesthetics. The exhibition celebrates the eternal beauty of Japanese textiles and is a tribute to the unknown makers who created them for young and old, for aristocrats and commoners, for daily life and for special occasions.

*Diligence and Elegance* features the contemporary work of Hiroko Karuno and Keiko Shintani, two Japanese-Canadian artists whose consummate craftsmanship and philosophies are profoundly connected to the evolution of Japanese textile traditions of spinning, dyeing and weaving. Their internationally renowned artistic achievements are testimony to the ethics of labour associated with a lifelong investment of time, practice and precision; they position living traditions as opportunities for personal reflection and the acknowledgement of the significance of collective human accomplishments.

Featuring historical and contemporary textiles, *Diligence and Elegance* presents a unique opportunity to learn and broaden horizons for those who are committed to the understanding and appreciation of handcrafted textiles of Japan from the past and present. In the exhibition, documentaries and videos of artists and artisans at work offer an opportunity to see the techniques and methods involved in creating the sophisticated patterns and colours of the textiles on display.

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue.

The Textile Museum of Canada would like to thank the William R. and Shirley Beatty Charitable Foundation for the lead sponsorship that made the exhibition and the catalogue possible. The Museum is grateful to The Japan Foundation for their generous support of the exhibition programs.

### **Media inquiries**

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High-resolution images: **textilemuseum.wordpress.ca**

### **About the Textile Museum of Canada**

Textile Museum of Canada has a 40-year history of exploring ideas and building cultural understanding through the universal medium of textiles. Connecting international textile traditions to contemporary art and design, this national museum is one of Canada's most engaging arts institutions welcoming thousands of visitors from across the country and around the world each year. The Museum's permanent collection spans 2,000 years and consists of over 14,000 artifacts from about 200 countries and regions, uniquely positioning the Museum to speak to global culture as well as our increasingly global communities. A leader in the digitization of collections and interactive environments, the TMC is recognized for its innovation in the development of landmark educational, research and creative initiatives.