Friends of the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery
P.O. Box 5832
Lincoln, NE 68505-5832

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JOIN THE FRIENDS
FOR 2016

If you join or renew your Friends membership by March 31, 2016, four lucky current members will be selected by lottery to attend the UNL TMFD student runway show at City Union April 22, which includes pre- and post-show receptions and a reserved seat valued at $75, compliments of the Friends!

Name: _____________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________
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o Student $15+  o Individual $35+
o Dual $65+  o Sustainer $75+
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o Benefactor $500+  o Grand Benefactor $1,000+

Make your check payable to FRHTG and mail to:
PO. Box 5832, Lincoln, NE 68505

Friends of the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery
and the Department of Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design
Invite you to Join Us for…

Stories in Fashion, a Nebraska Perspective
This exhibition of custom designed garments from the Historic Costume Collection at the Department of Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design reflects the lives and careers of some of Nebraska's notable women. Included in the exhibition is a grouping of garments designed for former Nebraska Governor, Kay Orr, by Nebraska designer Mary Anne Vaccaro. View 35 garments on display spanning the years 1920-1990 from three donors – Avery Woods, Kay Orr and Ilona Berk. All activities will take place at the Home Ec Building, UNL east campus. For more information, please call 402-472-2911.

February 15 Stories in Fashion, a Nebraska Perspective Gallery exhibit opens
February 26 A lecture entitled Design that Lasts will focus on fine fabrics. This talk will be given by Dr. Barbara Trout, curator of this exhibit, and graduate student Kylin Jensen, and is open to the public. 12 Noon in Room 31
March 4 Celebrate First Friday with us! A Gallery Talk focusing on each of the three donors, Avery Woods, Kay Orr and Ilona Berk, will start at 5:30pm by Dr. Trout and Kylin Jensen.
 See Kay Orr’s inauguration suit
 Garments by Valentino and Zandra Rhodes will be on display

Friends of the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery will host a reception from 6-8pm while you enjoy informal modeling by students showing their original draped, beaded and embroidered garments.

March 25 Lecture on Ilona Berk, her work and life story. 5:30pm Hillestad Gallery
April 1 Stories in Fashion, a Nebraska Perspective Gallery exhibit closes

Designed by David Tribouillard for Leonard Fashion, France, from the wardrobe of Avery Woods. Photo by Orville Friesen.

Gown designed and produced by Ilona Dorenter Berk (1918-2013) for her personal use, c. 1945. Photo by Tom Slocum.

Eventing gown designed and produced by Mary Anne Vaccaro of Omaha for Nebraska Governor Kay Orr. Photo by Loren Rye, UNL Pixel Lab.

Uncommon Threads
Friends of the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery
P.O. Box 5832
Lincoln, NE 68505-5832
402-472-2911
http://textilegallery.unl.edu
hillestadfriends@yahoo.com
From the Department Chair ~

The faculty and staff of the Department of Textiles, Merchandising & Fashion Design join me in thanking Friends of the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery for their ongoing support and for the recent gift of $6,670 in support funds stemming from membership dues. This underwriting helps to make possible much of the programming connected to Hillestad Gallery exhibitions, and it also helps us to maintain our rich historic costume and textiles collections, amazing resources for faculty and student research, for exhibition development, and for the community-at-large. In the past, such funding support has helped to purchase new display mannequins and acid-free tissue paper, used in working with the collections and in their maintenance. It has helped to underwrite the costs of bringing exhibiting artists to the department for lectures and workshops. For example, the summer 2016 Vox Stellarum exhibition will feature Massachusetts-based textile artist Elin Noble.

We are very excited about having this nationally-recognized surface designer and her work in the Gallery. Elin will install her show and will be the guest speaker at the Friends’ annual meeting Sunday, June 5. She is collaborating with TMFD Assistant Professor of Practice Michael Burton, another Massachusetts native (like yours truly) to develop a special video feature that will allow us for the first time to use the new high-definition gallery projectors installed last year to provide complementary visuals to enhance the Vox Stellarum experience. Michael spent several days recently working with Elin in her New Bedford, MA studio, a trip made possible with funds generously contributed by the Friends.

Next fall, we will feature a loan show of African textiles with funds generously contributed by the Friends’ newsletter – there is so much in store for you – we hope to grow – nearly $70,000 in under two years!

Also welcome Amanda Byleen, new UNL Foundation Faculty and planning many exhibits and events. We have made this possible. I think you’ll agree when you see this position will remain a dream. It’s certainly a dream we hope to one day make a reality.

- Michael James, Professor and Chair
Textiles, Merchandising & Fashion Design

More –

inspired donor comes along for whom the care, conservation and exhibition of these objects matches her or his passions, this position will remain a dream. It’s certainly a dream we hope to one day make a reality.

Message from the President ~

Time flies when you serve on the Friends Board – so much to do to support the Gallery and the Historic Costume Collections! Your Board has been hard at work the past six months – highlights include:

- Membership Proceeds Donation to Gallery Thanks to Membership Chair Lisa Warren’s efforts, and to all of you, we were able to provide a gift of $6,670 for support of the Gallery – a new record!
- “RED” Acquired Taste annual fund-raising event. The lovely Dallas Jones family’s home was the venue for an evening to remember. Gross proceeds of $10,000+ benefited the Gallery and our Endowed Fund. Fund-raising Co-chair Jack Saltzman and crew worked tirelessly – and “L” magazine featured our event!
- Celebration of Youth annual show in the Gallery. Friends awarded $25 to each 4-H exhibitor. Reception Chair Susan Nichols and Board members served a celebratory brunch to participants and their families.

These are exciting times for the TMFD Department, as Department Chair Michael James is introducing new faculty and planning many exhibits and events. We also welcome Amanda Byleen, new UNL Foundation Director of Development. Our Endowed Fund continues to grow – nearly $70,000 in under two years! Our annual Membership appeal letter is on its way to you – we appreciate your continued, generous support of our efforts!

Be sure to check out our “Save the Dates” section in this newsletter – there is so much in store for you – we hope to see you at our upcoming events!

Mary Belka
President

Focus on Founding Friend Dr. Audrey Newton

Founding Friend, Dr. Audrey Newton, was key to the establishment of the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery. Dr. Newton served as Department Chair of Textiles, Clothing and Design (now, Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design) from 1964 to 1982. In 1965, she recruited Robert Hillestad from the apparel industry to teach foundation design as well as textile/apparel design for the Department. Dr. Newton is described as a Visionary, as she led and implemented significant curriculum changes that benefited both undergraduate and graduate students. She understood the need for TMFD students to interact with industry professionals. She instituted, supported and participated in the Departmental study tours to New York and Europe, which served as a foundation for the present day TMFD study tours. Dr. Newton hired faculty who were progressive thinkers, willing to try new approaches to both interdisciplinary teaching and scholarship. The TMFD graduate masters program was instituted under her leadership.

New Friends Board member Coralee Scritsmier is a true “product of rural America”, having grown up on a farm in Custer County, and very involved in 4-H. Coralee graduated from Broken Bow High School and attended the University of Nebraska, after which she lived in North Platte and raised her family there. Coralee served as a 4-H, Cub Scout, and Campfire leader, as well as a Sunday school teacher for many years. She became involved with the Community Playhouse, creating costumes for many plays. Her connection to textiles and clothing continued, as she became a manager/buyer for a women’s store in North Platte, later moving to Lincoln to become a buyer for Miller and Paine. She went on to retail management with Dillard’s and several other companies since that time, and remains in retail today.

A woman of many interests, Coralee has served as a house Mom/Director within the Greek system at UNL for eighteen years – first with young women, and now in her 8th year with FarmHouse Fraternity. Coralee has been very involved with Lincoln’s Symphony Guild, recently serving as President; she is also an active PEO member. Coralee says, “I look forward to being a part of the Hillestad Gallery family.”

Introducing Coralee Scritsmier

Dr. Newton’s research focused on clothing for people with special needs. Audrey Newton returned to her faculty position in 1983 and retired from UNL in 1987. She remains an active supporter of the Gallery.
Notable Friends Moments...

4-H Celebration of Youth

Deb Arends, right, and her guest Andrew Shannon & Ericka Flanders

Robert Hillestad, Avery Woods, Jack Saltzman with the Carolina Herrera dress Avery donated to the Historic Costume Collection at UNL

Our hosts, the Dallas Jones family

Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery
Exhibition Calendar 2016

FEBRUARY 15 - APRIL 1, 2016
Stories in Fashion, a Nebraska Perspective
An exhibition of custom designed garments from the Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design Historic Costume collection that reflect the lives and careers of some of Nebraskas notable women. Included in the exhibition is a grouping of garments designed for former Nebraska Governor, Kay Orr, by Nebraska designer Mary Anne Vaccaro. The exhibition is curated by Dr. Barbara Trout. Program Friday, March 4, 2016 at 5:30 pm, Home Economics Building, east campus, followed by Friends reception at 6:00 pm, with informal student modeling.

Our hosts, the Dallas Jones family

Robert Hillestad & Maya Foxworthy

Detail of custom designed gown, late 1920's, donated by Avery Woods

Ensemble designed by Zandra Rhodes, part of her “Indian Feather Sunspray” Collection. Gift of Avery Woods. Photo by Orville Friesen.

APRIL 11 – APRIL 22, 2016
Canary Concepts and the Hidden Danger of Ubiquitous Things
Stacey Skold, Graduate Student Option II Thesis Project

Wrapped

This exhibit is concurrent with Earth Day activities at UNL. Earth Day is April 22, 2016.

Stuffed

Robert Hillestad, Avery Woods, Jack Saltzman with the Carolina Herrera dress Avery donated to the Historic Costume Collection at UNL

Robert Hillestad & Maya Foxworthy

APRIL 23 – JUNE 4, 2016
Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery will be closed for renovation.

JUNE 6 - SEPTEMBER 16, 2016
Elin Noble: Vox Stellarum
The layered and suspended installation of Elin Noble's itajime-dyed silk organza panels creates a dynamic yet meditative space that speaks to the interplay of light and shadow, transparency and opacity. Program Sunday, June 5, 2016, at 2 pm, Home Economics Building, east campus, followed by Friends reception. Details to follow for Elin Noble's design workshop to take place mid-September.
UNL Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design Biennial Student Runway Show – Elements
April 22, 2016
Centennial Ballroom, City Union, 7:30pm
Collaborative production by students and faculty, featuring talented students in Fashion Design, Hospitality-restaurant-Tourism Management & Catering Programs
Johnny Carson School of Theater and Film
Glenn Korff School of Music
Department of Art & Art History
$15 general unreserved seating, doors open at 6:30pm
$75 limited front-row premium seat tickets, includes pre-show heavy hors d’oeuvres reception at 5:30 pm and post-show dessert reception at 8:30 pm
Tickets available online at UNL Marketplace beginning March 14, 2016
For more information, call the Department of TMFD at 402-472-2911

Save these Dates
February 3-26 Camille Hawbaker exhibit The Murmuring Constellation, Lux Center for the Arts
February 11 Michael James: Forty Years in the Studio, International Quilt Study Center & Museum, talk at 4pm, $23 admission fee includes reception
February 13 Stories in Fashion, a Nebraska Perspective exhibit opens
February 26 A lecture by Dr. Barbara Trout and graduate student Kylin Jensen entitled Design that Lasts will focus on fine fabrics, Home Ec building, room 31, 12 Noon
March 4 Stories in Fashion Gallery Talk, 5:30pm, Home Economics building, east campus, followed by Friends reception 6pm and informal student modeling
March 25 Lecture on Ilona Berk, her work and life story, 5:30 pm Hillestad Gallery
March 31 Cut-off date for joining or renewing FRHTG membership to be eligible for drawing
April 11-22 Canary Concepts and the Hidden Danger of Ubiquitous Things exhibit at the Lux Center
April 22 TMFD Student fashion runway show, City Union, Centennial Ballroom, 7:30pm
April 23-June 4 Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery closed for renovation
May 26 Give to Lincoln Day – support your favorite nonprofit organization
June 5 Friends Annual Meeting, 2pm, Home Economics building, east campus, followed by guest speaker/exhibitor Elin Noble and Friends reception
June 6 Elin Noble: Vox Stellarum exhibit opens
June 5 Sheila Hicks Threads of Time, Jodlyn Art Museum, Omaha, exhibit opens

Some of you may have met Dr. Anjali Karolia when she came to Lincoln in 2010 as a visiting Fulbright-Nehru faculty member. I again worked with Anjali while on my second Fulbright project, in association with the The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat from October 2014-July 2015. Much to my delight, I developed close ties with the graduate students and research fellows, three of whom joined me in the village of Somasar, Gujarat, where we conducted three days of intensive interviews with master weaver Vitthal Vighela, his sons, and members of the weaving community.

My goal was to determine whether what I had hoped to accomplish fit with the needs of the weavers and we discovered through this research that Vitthalbhai was eager to convert to cotton weaving and to develop new patterns that could be used for dress fabric in an effort to attract a wider market and make a more affordable product. Consequently, we tailored our work in the community to meet this need. Ankita Patadiya worked with Jignesh Vighela to convert their dye work to fiber reactive dye, more eco-friendly than the direct dyes they had been trying.

We also tested resist materials to help them obtain the quality of resist they required for commercial production. I worked with Jignesh to train him in digital design for ikat using software called ProWeave. January 18, 2016 the Times of India published an article featuring the weavers of Somasar and conversion to cotton production. (http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/High-silk-prices-drive-patola-weavers-to-cotton/articleshow/50629978.cms)

In addition to my work in Gujarat, we traveled to the Nalgonda district in Andhra Pradesh and the Sambalpur district of Odisha to meet with ikat weavers. While at home in Baroda, I worked on my own warp ikat, perfecting a fermentation vat to make black dye from rusty iron and jaggery (cane sugar), which became the dye method I used to make a piece for the 15th International Triennial of Tapestry, at the Central Museum of Textiles in Lodz, Poland, opening May 9, 2016.

Please visit my web page at wendyweiss.org to see photos of the fantastic fashion work advanced students designed after a short tutorial on stitched and bound resist.

Wendy Weiss
External Relations Director, Textile Society of America
Fulbright Nehru Scholar 2014-15, Baroda, Gujarat
Former Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery Director, UNL

Photo Credits:
Portrait of Master Weaver Vitthalbhai’s immediate family with research fellows Ankita Patadiya and Jenifer Hori seated in front; Vitthalbhai is in the center and his sons Jignesh and Mehul, both of whom are active in the weaving business, are behind him.

Bina Rao of Creative Bee, http://creativebee.in/, left, designed the top that both she and Wendy are wearing. The fabric is made with double ikat or resist dye in both the warp and weft yarn.