



News Release

October 29, 2008

*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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EXHIBITION: *From Rags to Riches: The Globalization of Fashion through Print Culture*

DATES: November 18 — December 12, 2008

OPENING RECEPTION: Thursday, November 20, 5-7 p.m.
Presentation by the Education Committee, 6 p.m.
Free and open to the public

LOCATION: Kresge Art Museum
Michigan State University Campus, East Lansing, MI

Students, Professor, and Kresge Art Museum collaborate to assemble
From Rags to Riches:
The Globalization of Fashion through Print Culture
Kresge Art Museum, MSU

EAST LANSING, MI — This semester, 26 students enrolled in Assistant Professor Louise Siddons's *Curatorial Practices: History of Prints* course, part of MSU's Museum Studies Program, got a peek behind the scenes and into the collections of the Kresge Art Museum. Siddons, who also serves as an Adjunct Curator at KAM, helped to guide the students through a collaborative process that ultimately culminated in the exhibition *From Rags to Riches: The Globalization of Fashion through Print Culture*. This exhibition will be on view in KAM's Works on Paper Gallery November 18 through December 12, 2008. **An opening reception for the exhibition will be held on Thursday, November 20, 5-7 p.m., with a talk by the class's education committee at 6 p.m.** This reception is free of charge, and the public is encouraged to attend.

Split into several groups, students in Siddons's *Curatorial Practices* class brainstormed themes for an exhibition of works on paper. No specific restrictions were given, but there were still challenges in this collaborative project. Students had to consider the limitations of the print collection as well as find a theme with the relevance to appeal to both the museum audience and students on campus. *From Rags to Riches: The Globalization of Fashion through Print Culture* won the consensus of the class. Students felt that following fashion trends represented through the print medium would speak to the effects of globalization that are felt daily on the MSU campus.

Across the globe, people have and continue to express themselves in diverse ways. Ideas are borrowed from other cultures and reintroduced as a way of self-expression. This exhibition raises the question of how fashion has been used to allow people to claim cultural capital through expressions of affluence and multiculturalism.

Kresge Art Museum is located in East Lansing, MI, on the first floor of the Kresge Art Center at the intersection of Physics and Auditorium Roads between the Alumni Chapel and the MSU Auditorium on the campus of Michigan State University. Hours are Monday through Friday, 10 to 5 p.m., Thursday until 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum is closed November 27-30 for Thanksgiving, and December 13-January 11, 2009 for winter break. For additional information, call (517) 355-7631 or visit www.artmuseum.msu.edu.

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Caption/Credit for attached image: Suzuki Harunobu (Japanese, 1725-1770). *Rain in May*, ca. 1768-69, ukiyo-e woodblock print, 10-1/4 x 7-5/8 inches. Transfer from the Department of Human Environment and Design, MSU, 2000.15.24

About this image: Printed in the late 1760s, Suzuki Harunobu's *Rain in May* depicts three figures all dressed in traditional Japanese attire. The bright colors and patterns of the kimonos easily capture the attention of viewers and would years later influence many artists of the Impressionist era. This print demonstrates the exchange between East and West that is explored further in the exhibition, among other cultural exchanges.

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Editor's Note: Assistant Professor Siddons and students in her class may be available for interviews about this collaborative project. Please contact the museum for details and scheduling.

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