



MEDIA RELEASE

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**MIN
GEI**
INTERNATIONAL
MUSEUM

AMERICAN ICONS

CELEBRATING FOLK ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN FROM COAST TO COAST

San Diego CA - March 14, 2014

Just as the 1915 Panama-California Exposition in Balboa Park celebrated the connection of the country's east and west coasts through the opening of the Panama Canal, beginning in June 2014 and throughout 2015 Mingei International Museum will mount a series of exhibitions to celebrate the imagination, inspiration and innovation of Americans who have for more than three centuries created stunning works of folk art, craft and design – our shared American Icons. Throughout the country's history, from Southern California's development of the surfboard to quilts from Kentucky to scrimshaw from Massachusetts, traditions have been created by residents of every state with objects unique to their region that have influenced life locally, throughout the country and around the world.

SURF CRAFT – Design and the Culture of Board Riding

JUNE 21, 2014 - JANUARY 11, 2015

Cutting-edge engineering and minimalist art converge in this exhibition devoted to surfboards built from the late 1940s to the present day. The evolution of surfing will be explored, from ancient *alaia* planing boards of Hawaii through mid-twentieth century hydrodynamic planing hulls designed by legendary surfer Bob Simmons, who died at Windansea in La Jolla in 1954. Innovative board-shapers and surfers of the past and present will be highlighted, including Simmons and Carl Ekstrom.

IN THE REALM OF NATURE – Bob Stocksdale and Kay Sekimachi

SEPTEMBER 13, 2014 – MARCH 15, 2015

This new exhibition presents an inspiring retrospective on the careers of these two esteemed American artists. Sekimachi is a weaver and fiber artist, Stocksdale was a wood turner. The exquisite artworks made by each stand distinctively on their own; yet, seen together, their creative output often reveals a long-running, lively artistic conversation between them, a happy reflection of their life together as a married couple.

THREE ON THE EDGE – Architecture of Kendrick Bangs Kellogg, James T. Hubbell and Wallace Cunningham

OCTOBER 25, 2014 – MARCH 15, 2015

Friends and colleagues of many decades, Kendrick Kellogg, James Hubbell, and Wallace Cunningham have spent their entire professional lives in the San Diego region. Each is strongly influenced by the geography and climate of southern California and Baja, Mexico, and their work responds to the friendliness of the sea, the light and the accepting hills and land. This exhibition will highlight the

trio's architecture and design creations, which are original, imaginative and poetic, evoking a romantic aesthetic and expressive of the principles of the artist-craftsman's movement. A publication will accompany the exhibition.

MADE IN AMERICA - Craft Icons of the 50 States

SEPTEMBER 2015 - JANUARY 2016

This exhibition of traditional and contemporary craft icons highlights distinctive materials, excellence of workmanship and makers' imaginations. Exploring regional and national craft traditions, while expressing each state's unique contribution to the richness of the American experience, this exhibition celebrates the variety of craft found in America. Exhibition objects will include: Sam Maloof's signature Rocking Chair for California, Karen Karnes' Lidded Jar for the salt glazed pottery tradition of Vermont, Henry Petzal Silver for a contemporary take on Massachusetts' centuries-old silver-smith tradition, Dale Chihuly Glass for Washington State, a Louis Comfort Tiffany long-necked Glass Bottle for New York and a newly acquired Gee's Bend Quilt for Alabama.

SELF-TAUGHT GENIUS - Treasures from the American Folk Art Museum

APRIL 18 - AUGUST 16, 2015

Organized by the American Folk Art Museum, an exhibition of over 100 outstanding works of art from its collection will be on view in New York City from May 14 - August 17, 2014. ***SELF-TAUGHT GENIUS - Treasures from the American Folk Art Museum*** will then travel across the country, and Mingei International Museum will be the only west coast museum to show the exhibition.

The exhibition will feature masterpieces in a variety of forms including textiles and needlework, ceramics, sculptural and carved figures, drawings, paintings, furniture, and much more, dating from the 18th century to the present. Rare treasures reflecting highly personal narratives, these works have been omitted from many presentations of American art, yet they offer crucial commentary within the ongoing national conversation. ***SELF-TAUGHT GENIUS*** reveals the challenges and triumphs of America as it emerged and enhances an understanding of our evolving national identity. Select objects from Mingei's collection of American folk art will be included in its presentation in San Diego.

BLACK DOLLS

FEBRUARY 7 - JULY 5, 2015

BLACK DOLLS presents over 100 unique handmade African-American dolls made between 1860 and 1930. Each expressive and with distinctive characteristics, these dolls reflect the resourcefulness and ingenuity of their unknown makers. Created with materials at hand, including old clothing and fabric remnants, buttons and beads, they depict human depth and emotion and were crafted by makers evidently bent on creating faithful images.

QUILTS FROM THE PAT L. NICKOLS COLLECTION

ROTATING DISPLAY, 2014 - 2015

In 2012, Mingei International Museum received an exemplary collection of American quilts, donated by Pat and Tom Nickols of Rancho Santa Fe, California. The donation included 350 quilts, made from the early 1800s to the 1950s and gathered from many parts of the United States. This collection greatly expanded the Museum's holdings of American folk art, including excellent examples of many traditional quilt types: early (pre-1850), charm, signature, string, log cabin, feed sack and baby and doll quilts. The Museum will display changing selections from the Pat L. Nickols collection throughout 2014 and 2015 in its Theater Gallery.

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ABOUT MINGEI INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM

Located in San Diego's Balboa Park, Mingei International Museum collects, preserves and exhibits "art of the world, art of the people," including folk art, craft and design from all eras and cultures of the world. A non-profit institution funded by admission, individuals, and community support, the Museum offers inspiring exhibitions and diverse educational programs to more than 100,000 visitors a year.

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