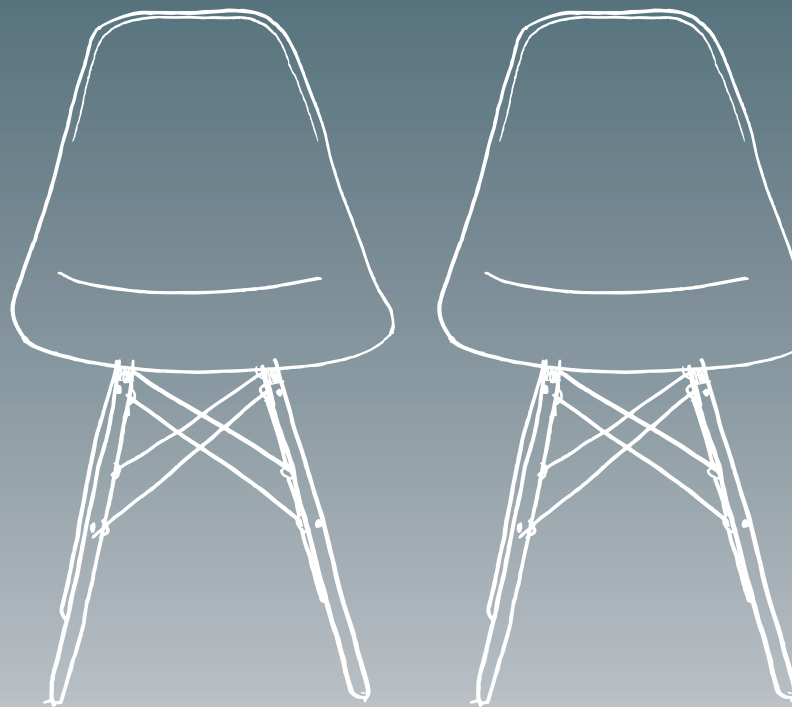




**PLEASE  
BE  
SEATED**



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**MIN  
GEI**  
INTERNATIONAL  
MUSEUM

## PLEASE BE SEATED

OCTOBER 5, 2013 – MARCH 30, 2014

From woven mats to high-tech contemporary designs, ***PLEASE BE SEATED*** will tell the story of seating across both culture and time, addressing the never-ending quest to seat people comfortably, appropriately, and fashionably. Drawn from the Museum's permanent collection and from other institutional and private collections, the exhibition will present wide-ranging examples of seating from many periods and cultures; from woven Japanese mats and simple stools to the manufactured mid-century modern styles by popular American and European designers and beyond. ***PLEASE BE SEATED*** opens on October 5, 2013, at Mingei International Museum.

Rob Sidner, the Museum's director and the curator of ***PLEASE BE SEATED***, has included more than 100 objects in the show. "This is an art exhibition, not a comprehensive, historical survey," says Sidner. "Aesthetic values have dominated in the choices I made, while some objects were included just for fun or surprise." Among the objects visitors will find handmade seating of traditional cultures across the globe drawn largely from the Museum's collection, along with 20th century to contemporary chairs, both factory and hand-made, on loan from a number of museum and private collections.

Throughout the exhibition, Museum visitors will encounter artistic invention in seating that is common and comfortable, traditional, and contemporary and with a dash of the unexpected and quirky. The range of seating examples will include bark cloth next to the ground and rugs, mats, pillows, stools and benches, moving on to both exotic and familiar chairs from pre-industrial societies. Highlighted among the more contemporary seating will be the designs of George Nakashima, Sam Maloof and especially Charles and Ray Eames – likely the most important designers of domestic and office ware in the 20th century.

To support the exhibition, the Museum has launched a social, curatorial experiment on the digital platform Tumblr, calling for the public to share images of chairs. This effort, which began March of 2013 and will continue through the duration of the show, will be incorporated into the exhibition and accessible to the public online and in the exhibition gallery.

## **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. Institutional support for Mingei International Museum is provided in part by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

[www.mingei.org](http://www.mingei.org)