



MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS

JESSICA HANSON YORK
(619) 704-7510
jyork@mingei.org

JOHANNA SARETZKI
(619) 704-7506
jsaretzki@mingei.org

MIN
GEI
INTERNATIONAL
MUSEUM

EXHIBITION CELEBRATING SURF CRAFT, DESIGN AND CULTURE OPENS ON THE FIRST DAY OF SUMMER AT MINGEI

San Diego, CA – May 16, 2014 – *SURF CRAFT - Design and the Culture of Board Riding* will open at Mingei International Museum on June 21, 2014. This new exhibition, curated by local surf historian Richard Kenvin, will occupy the Museum's entire first-floor gallery, presenting 60-80 surfboards built from the late 1940s to the present day in their historical context of craft and design.

Standing alone, surfboards are often striking examples of functional design. Together, over time, they tell a compelling story about the evolution of an important art form in America and around the world. *SURF CRAFT* will be a unique surfboard design exhibition, capturing the influences behind design in board riding, from the *alaia* boards of ancient Hawaii, to obscure surf bathing boards of England, Japan and Africa, to post-war hydrodynamic planing hulls from Southern California.

The surfboard, historically a handcrafted object, ultimately gave rise to foam and fiberglass board construction, often produced on a mass scale. However, many contemporary shapers are now recognizing and tapping into the design principles found in the traditional boards. Cutting-edge engineering and minimalist art will converge in this exhibition. Innovative board-shapers and surfers from San Diego's past and present will be highlighted, including Bob Simmons and Carl Ekstrom. The exhibition will be on view until January 11, 2015.

Guest curator Richard Kenvin has authored a 176-page hardcover book of the same title, published by Marquand Books and MIT Press. The book includes 150 historic and contemporary photographs.

SURF CRAFT will be the first exhibition to kick off Mingei International Museum's 18-month exhibition theme *AMERICAN ICONS - Celebrating Folk Art, Craft and Design from Coast to Coast*. 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. Learn more at www.mingei.org/americanicons

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Richard Kenvin grew up in Southern California in the 1960s. He learned to ride a skateboard in 1967 and learned to surf in 1970. In 1979 he won the Stubbies Pro, a professional surfing competition held at Blacks Beach in San Diego. By the age of 19 he had been to Hawaii several times and traveled extensively in Australia. He worked for various independent apparel designers in California in the eighties and nineties. He was curator of the 838 and Cassius King art galleries in San Diego from 2000-2005. Since 2002 he has worked with surfing historian John Elwell and designer Carl Ekstrom on the Hydrodynamica Project. In 2011 he participated in the Getty Research Institute's Pacific Standard Time initiative as curator of *Remember the Future*, an exhibition of Bob Simmons's surfboards shown in the context of mid-century California modern design. His writing has been published in the *Surfers Journal* and *Surfer Magazine*. Mr. Kenvin surfs every chance he gets on a variety of craft. He lives in downtown San Diego.

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