

**Future Beauty: 30 Years of Japanese Fashion Opening Reception Speech by
Acting Consul General Tomoko Dodo, June 25, 2013**

The opening reception of “Future Beauty: Thirty Years of Japanese Fashion” was held at the Seattle Art Museum on June 25, 2013. It was a very well-attended event with many distinguished SAM members and supporters. The program featured SAM Director Kim Rorschach, Board of Trustees President Winifred Stratton, and Modern and Contemporary Art Curator Catharina Manchanda. Also spotlighted was renowned world fashion historian and curator Akiko Fukai as the feature speaker. Acting Consul General Tomoko Dodo attended and delivered a speech sharing her thoughts on both the exhibit and the relationship between East and West.

On June 27 there was a special luncheon hosted by the Women’s University Club, featuring a lecture by Akiko Fukai. Acting Consul General Dodo recalled her impressions from opening night and encouraged audience members to visit the exhibit and experience it for themselves.

* * *

Good evening, everyone, and thank you, Director Rorschach. At the outset I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the initiative and hard work, by both the Seattle Art Museum and the Kyoto Costume Institute, in organizing this fabulous fashion exhibit. The Consulate-General of Japan, together with the Japan Foundation, is proud and pleased to have taken part in the realization of bringing this wonderful exhibit to this beautiful Emerald City.

At first glance, it may seem as though we are surrounded by nothing but clothing and pictures. After becoming familiar with the stories behind these pieces, however, you may understand why I see a paradigm shift.

A paradigm shift. New ideas often challenge the norm and confront confusion, even hostility. These art pieces are no exception. They were initially met by such reactions from Europeans and Americans. But soon they came to view them with open minds, accepted them, and then created their own fashion inspired by the new concepts, which in turn has inspired Japanese artists. It is a circle of innovation, inspiration, and interconnectedness.

Art reflects life, life reflects art. East and West meet, interact with, and learn from each other. In this spirit we move on and continue to strengthen the bonds between our peoples.

Let us enjoy and learn from this wonderful exhibit. Thank you.