

GOLDSTEIN MUSEUM OF DESIGN

364 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55108

<http://goldstein.design.umn.edu>, 612.624.7434

Expressions of Stability and Change: Ethnic Dress and Folk Costume

February 7-June 14, 2009

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ABOUT THE EXHIBITION: Gloriously colored and exquisitely textured ethnic clothing from around the world will celebrate the vibrant multi-cultural nature of the University of Minnesota and greater Twin Cities communities. As a powerful symbol of cultural heritage, ethnic dress is a significant statement of identity and belonging.

The exhibition will feature **30 ensembles of ethnic dress and folk costume** from Bhutan, India, Afghanistan, China, Turkey, Nigeria, Cameroon, Somalia, Ghana, Palestine, Egypt, Scotland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Croatia, the Ukraine, Laos (Hmong), Mexico, Guatemala, and Native American (Ojibwe). Both men's and women's dress will be included. Visitors to the exhibition will gain an appreciation of how ethnic dress and folk costume continue to evolve and how they are used as a form of cultural expression and unification.

Exhibition themes:

- Ethnic clothing communicates continuity despite change of form
- European folk dress was influenced by 19th century nationalism and romanticism
- The Spanish conquest had significant impact on indigenous Latin American dress
- Varying interpretations of religious guidelines shape appropriate dress
- Design details can pinpoint places of origin or affiliation with a group.

These concepts will be communicated through objects rich with regional textile techniques and cultural symbols, accompanied by explanatory text panels and a written gallery guide.

Through a series of free programs, visitors will gain an appreciation of the evolution of cultural traditions and their importance in establishing connections between people. Cross-cultural discussions about immigrant experiences will increase awareness of the challenges faced by those who have, or will, mediate between group identity and social integration.

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Events and Programs

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| Friday, February 6, 2009 | 6-7 PM | Informal Gallery Tour (by invitation) |
| | 7-9 PM | Opening Party (Open to public) |
| Thursday, February 26
6 PM | | Panel Discussion: "Retention of Traditions and the Immigrant Experience"
Discussion Moderator: Dr. Kate Daly,
Panelists: Nimo Farah, Seexeng Lee, Jorge Panchi;
33 McNeal Hall; reception following |
| Thursday, March 12
6 PM | | Presentation: "The Re-invention of Scandinavian Folk Dress in the Nineteenth Century," by Laurann Gilbertson, Textile Curator, Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah, Iowa
274 McNeal Hall; reception following |
| Thursday, April 2
6 PM | | Presentation: "Kalabari Dress of Nigeria as an Example of Cultural Authentication," by Dr. Joanne B. Eicher, Regents Professor Emerita, College of Design, University of Minnesota
274 McNeal Hall; reception following |
| Thursday, April 23
6 PM | | Presentation: "Somali Immigrants in Minnesota and Scandinavia: Cultural Authenticity and Economic Dynamism," by Dr. Benny Carlson, Professor of Economic History, University of Lund, Sweden and 2008 Cornelia Malmberg Fellow, The American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis
274 McNeal Hall; reception following |

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McNeal Hall Visitor Info

The Goldstein Museum Gallery is on the second floor 241 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.

Gallery Hours

The Goldstein Museum Gallery is open Monday-Wednesday, & Friday 10am – 4pm, Thursday 10am – 8pm and weekends 1:30 - 4:30pm.

Admission and Parking

Admission is free. Parking is in Gortner Ramp at 1395 Gortner Avenue. The Ramp and McNeal Hall are both handicapped accessible.

Public Transit:

87 or campus connectors. For bus information call (612) 373-3333.