

# FOM Textile Enthusiasts Group 2018-2019 Event Schedule

## Exploring the visual language of traditional motifs & patterns in Indian hand block-printed textiles

Date: Friday 3 May 2019

Speaker: Alpna Swarup, Fabindia Zone Manager SG & MY

Location: FabIndia, 01-141 VivoCity



Traditional motifs and patterns in Indian block printed textiles tell tales of culture, faith, religion, land and power. A single zigzag line print symbolizes river for one and hills for another. Let's explore their inception, transformation over time and forms, as we see them today.

NB: TEG members have a 10% discount at FabIndia. Just show your FOM membership card.

About the Speaker:

With over two decades of engagement in the Indian block printed textile sector, Alpna Swarup is eager to discuss her learnings and inferences with TEG members. Having also worked with artisans & craftspeople at grass roots level, what she hopes to bring us is an understanding of the cultural aspect of this visual language.

*Tales of faraway places are waiting to be told*

*To be lived once more and loved once more*

*Unseen lanes, unseen rules, heart-skipping beats... before opening the door.*

*Tales are to be told, but not only mine to tell*

*You shall find your own and open the door!*

## Shared Passion

Date: Friday 12 April 2019

Hostess: Kim Arnold

TEG members always look forward to Shared Passion month. This annual show-and-tell event is a wonderful opportunity to share and learn from fellow members.

Bring one of your favourite textiles to share with the group -- a piece that is either something you wear or keep as a collector's item. It would be helpful if you know the weaving technique and provenance of your selected piece but if even if you don't, you may have the opportunity to draw upon the knowledge of other members. Each member will be given a chance to speak about their textile piece. Please note that it is not required to bring a textile piece; you are still welcome to attend for the learning experience.



## Fashion Victims

Date: Friday 22 March 2019

Speaker: Margaret White

Hostess: Janet Stride

The inspiration for this talk came from the exhibition: *Fashion Victims: The Pleasures and Perils of Dress in the 19th Century* at the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto, Canada in 2015. In this illustrated talk, Margaret White will

discuss the effects of the use of chemicals and the mechanical changes in clothing production which altered the natural silhouette of the body. Many have paid a high price to be fashionable. An overview from the 19th



century to the present day provides an insight into the fascinating world of the fashion industry. Are we willing 'fashion victims' today?

About the Speaker:

Margaret returned to Australia in 2011 after residing in Singapore for almost 20 years. During that time, she was heavily involved in the rapidly evolving National Heritage Board Museums via the Friends of Museums (FOM) and continues to be engaged with the society. Her passion for Asian art and culture spurred her to complete an MA in Southeast Asian Studies from the National University of Singapore. She has held numerous positions in FOM including the Textile Enthusiasts Committee, Docent Coordinator, Study Tours coordinator and President and Advisor. Travelling extensively through Asia has provided further impetus to collect and study textiles, ceramics and art. Currently, she serves on the Management Committee of The Asian Art Society of Australia where she coordinates both the Textiles Study Group and the Ceramics Study Group.

### **Investigating the origins of Ikat Loseng: Malaysia's Lesser Known Warp Ikat**

Friday 22 February 2019

Speaker: John Ang



Many of us have heard the term kain limar, which refers to the famous weft ikats from Malaysia's northeast states of Terengganu and Kelantan. However ikat loseng, a warp ikat produced in the same states of Malaysia, is largely unknown. Textile collector John Ang's interest began with the purchase of his first Malay ikat loseng. Although he told many of his textile collector friends that it was from Terengganu, they insisted it was a warp ikat from Uzbekistan. The similarities between the two were intriguing and inspired him to investigate if there was a connection. His talk will focus on this investigation and its interesting results. Examples from John's private collection will be shown after presentation. Location: Indian Heritage Centre activity room.

About the Speaker:

John Ang is an avid collector of textiles. Since 2014 he has focused on collecting and researching textiles of the Malay world. After 32 years in Taipei, he has recently moved to KL to facilitate his research. He is also accumulating interesting stories about these textiles to compile into a book.

### **Power and agency in the traditional textiles of eastern Indonesia**

Friday 25 January 2019

Speaker: Dr Geneviève Duggan

Location: Ixora Room at the Peranakan Museum



Culture is not a commodity and traditional textiles cannot be reduced to merely their commercial value. In this talk, anthropologist Geneviève Duggan will uncover the invisible power and the unspoken agency of textiles and reveal new ways to appreciate the hand-woven cloths of eastern Indonesia.

About the Speaker:

Dr Geneviève Duggan is an anthropologist and during three decades of research in Indonesia, she has studied textile traditions in social contexts (Ikats of Savu White Lotus 2001) and transmission of knowledge in an oral society (PhD thesis, NUS 2008). From 2010 to 2013 she was a Visiting Fellow at ISEAS (Singapore). Recent publications include Savu; history and oral tradition in an island of Indonesia (co-authored with Hans Hägerdal NUS Press, 2018); A note about hand-woven cloths with a continuous warp in eastern Indonesia (Archipel, 2017); and Tracing Ancient Networks; Linguistics, Hand-woven Cloths and Looms in Eastern Indonesia (Qin

Dashu and Yuan Jian eds, World Scientific, 2015). For information on Dr Duggan's recently published book about Savu, visit [nuspress.nus.edu.sg/products/savu-history-and-oral-tradition-on-an-island-of-indonesia](http://nuspress.nus.edu.sg/products/savu-history-and-oral-tradition-on-an-island-of-indonesia)

## Drinks & Dresses

Friday 30 November 2018

Host: Peter Lee

Celebrate the festive season with textiles and style! Dress up in your favourite ethnic or handcrafted textiles and join TEG at the elegant home of Peranakan scholar and collector Peter Lee. Peter will have a few pieces from his collection on display for us to enjoy. Spouses are welcome and are encouraged to participate in the 'textile spirit'. This social event is exclusively for TEG members and their guests. Not a TEG member yet? You can join right here on this webpage!



### About Our Host:

Peter Lee is an independent scholar, author, and the Honorary Curator of the Baba House, a historical house museum managed by the National University of Singapore. In 2016, Peter was a guest curator of Port Cities: Multicultural Emporiums of Asia, 1500 –1900. His family's collection of textiles focuses on the links between batik and Indian trade textiles, and how both are very much part of an interconnected history. The collection comprises mainly batiks from the north coast of Java, and Indian trade cloths made for Europe, Japan, Iran, Sri Lanka, and the Malay Archipelago.

## Threads of Strength

Friday 16 November 2018

Hostess: Anupama Kshetry

Website: [bykaveri.com](http://bykaveri.com)

Linen is one of the world's oldest and most valued fabrics. Join designer Kaveri Lalchand for a talk about the history of linen, its positive properties and what makes it so appealing...life, like linen, is better relaxed! We will also have a reading of a few poems about women, clothes, shopping and life, plus a discussion of how the clothes we wear shapes us, stereotypes us or leaves us open to judgement from outside and within. A trunk show from Kaveri's clothing line will be on display in conjunction with this talk.



### About the Speaker

Based in her hometown of Chennai, Kaveri Lalchand is a clothes-maker who crafts stylish, impressionable and inherently comfortable clothes exclusively in linen for women across ages and life contexts. She also has an international presence in Europe, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Maldives. The brand Kaveri is a free-flowing articulation of its maker's spirit that celebrates the importance of comfortable garments that have the potential to empower women - of all kinds and sizes - to feel beautiful, and loved, everyday.

Kaveri is one of Chennai's prominent theatre actors and is a strong supporter and crusader of traditional Indian craft & textiles and has worked closely with the Crafts Council of India to preserve and promote these art forms.

## **Kumihimo: A talk and workshop on Japanese braiding**

Friday 19 October 2018

Speaker & Hostess: Kim Arnold

Please join Kim Arnold for an informal talk on Kumihimo, which will cover its history, techniques and some current uses. These intricate braids have been used for centuries in Japan and are traditionally made with silk threads using specialized stands. She will explore historical uses and discuss methods, materials, stands and shapes. After the talk, interested participants will have the opportunity learn the Edo Yatsu Gumi, an 8-strand braided cord. Kim Arnold is a co-coordinator of both TEG and Asian Study Group.



## **Textiles 101**

Friday 12 October 2018

Speaker & Hostess: Lynelle Barrett

Did you ever wonder what a warp was? Or weft? Are you curious about how ikat is made? Interested in the names and colours of natural dyes? If you are new to the study of traditional textiles or just want a better understanding of some of the terms used by textile collectors and experts, TEG is here to help. Spend a relaxed morning with Lynelle as she explains various terms to help your understanding and appreciation of textiles.



### **About the Speaker:**

Since moving to Asia and joining TEG, Lynelle Barrett has become obsessed with traditional textiles. She now devotes her time to textile art, weaving and teaching. When she can, she travels to learn about weaving and natural dye techniques from indigenous weavers. Lynelle is co-coordinator of the Textile Enthusiasts Group.

## **The Pen, the Block and the Loom**

Friday 28 September 2018

Speaker: Marina Thayil

Location: Indian Heritage Centre

For centuries, India has been clothing the world through the export of cotton textiles. The popularity of the material was due to the fabulous colour fast dyes extracted from natural plants and minerals. The beautiful patterns were created by skilled craftsmen through painting, block printing or weaving and advanced techniques of mordant and resist dyeing. This lecture looks at the history of the trade and some of the oldest textiles preserved in museums in Singapore and abroad.



### **About the Speaker:**

Marina Thayil has been an FOM docent since 2008 at the Asian Civilisations Museum and the Indian Heritage Centre. She has completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art from the School of Oriental and African Art, London.