

# FOM TEXTILE ENTHUSIASTS GROUP PAST EVENT SCHEDULE

## Sep 2020- May 2021 Session

Updated 22 July 2021 JR



### Textile Study Group via Zoom: Summer, Fall, Winter Sessions

June 2020, October 2020 and January 2021

The new Textile Study Group (TSG) has been meeting weekly on Friday mornings, via Zoom video conferencing. We think it has been successful and we have all certainly learned a lot! The winter session presented Textiles Artists and their Art in a range of presentations that evoked admiration and emotion! Looms and the Fabrics they create was the theme for the fall session in 2020. The summer session ran two themes concurrently: 1) Motifs & Patterns and 2) Religious, Ceremonial & Court Textiles. Usually we have 24 presentation slots available over a 12 week period. Auditors (ie non-presenters) are permitted to join after we fill all the presentation slots. **All participants will need to be members of TEG.**

Meeting: Friday mornings from 10:00 to noon, two presentations per session.

Presentations: 40 minutes with 10 minutes for discussion.



### Textiles in Burman Culture (via Zoom)

Friday 21 May, 2021

Speaker: Sylvia Fraser-Lu

Sylvia Fraser-Lu has recently authored a new publication, *Textiles in Burman Culture*, that gives an overview of the history and evolution of textiles made and used by the Burman (Bama) majority. Her talk will center on the Amarapura area where the most famous of Burma's textiles— the bold colorful wave-patterned tapestry weave lun-taya acheik, the embroideries such as the kalaga and the intricately patterned Buddhist manuscript binding ribbons sa-zi-gyo are made. She will also take us through a quick journey of some lesser known, but important textile centers---Rakhine, Gangaw and Inle.

This session is open to all FOM members. Please register by 8pm on 20 May 2021. The Zoom link will be sent the evening prior to all the registrants.

### CRAFT COUTURE: The Future of Textiles and Cultural Sustainability (via Zoom)

Friday 16 April, 2021

Speaker: Gaurav Jai Gupta



India is one of the few countries globally with living crafts and craftspeople, putting Indian design in a unique position where both the craft and the artisan become very important from a heritage and skill point of view. But at the same time there is a great need to recontextualise craft production to keep it relevant to the current times, requiring upgrading of vocabulary and design intervention.

Trained as a fashion and textile designer from Chelsea College of Art and Design London and National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) New Delhi, Gaurav Jai Gupta debuted under his label, Akaaro at India Fashion Week (2010). His work has been showcased extensively in India and internationally

including the RMIT University Australia and Alchemy Festival London. India's handloom story, sustainability, and sculptural inspirations- all three play a strong role in his body of work, globally acclaimed for contemporary luxury textile creations and innovative use of material.



### **Gold and Silk- 12 years of Songket weaving in West Sumatra (via Zoom)**

Friday 19 March, 2021

Speaker: Bernhard Bart and Erika Dubler

Bernhard and Erika, founders of Studio Songket Palantaloom take us through their personal journey to reinvigorate Minangkabau songket weaving in general, and to revive the traditional patterns in particular. This

story started when Bernhard stayed in West Sumatra for several months in 1996 learning Indonesian, when he fell in love with the songket weaving of the Minangkabau.

Their presentation will take us through the history and tradition of Minangkabau songket weaving and a look into the meanings of the patterns. They will also discuss techniques involved and we will get to see their attempts at creating more contemporary pieces while still keeping up traditional values.



### **The World of Modest Fashion (via Zoom)**

Friday 26 February, 2021

Speaker: Sadiah Shahal

Modest fashion, hijabi fashion or Islamic fashion, whatever the term you choose, the Islamic fashion industry is expected to hit US\$370 million by 2021, with big names in fashion jumping onto the bandwagon. What exactly is modest or hijabi fashion? Join docent Sadiah Shahal as she explains its basics and why it is expected to grow.

Singaporean Sadiah Shahal joined FOM in 2014 and now guides at the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall and the Malay Heritage Centre. After graduating from NUS, Sadiah's career was in television until she switched professions, obtaining a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education.

### **Chinese Wayang of Singapore (via Zoom)**

Friday 15 January, 2021

Speakers: Jeffrey Eng and Laura Yung



Chinese opera is fondly known as "wayang" in Singapore. Tucked away in a charming lane in Geylang is a quaint little shop where you can find Jeffrey Eng, the proprietor of Eng Tiang Huat Chinese Cultural Shop. Jeffrey's grandfather started the business in 1936, next to an opera theatre. This talk will introduce the structure of Chinese opera, its brief history and its development in Singapore. For our textile enthusiasts, learn about the amazing costumes and the language of embroidery

Jeffrey Eng became involved in his family's business at the tender age of 10 by ferrying orders from the shop to the troupes. This gave him intimate knowledge of the colourful and dazzling world of Chinese wayang. He is hands-on and passionate about conserving the traditional crafts of wayang costumes, accessories, musical instruments, and Chinese textiles.



Laura Yung's interest in Cantonese opera started as a child, watching performances with her grandmother. The costumes, the music, the make-up, the whole atmosphere fascinated her. Laura credits her command of the Cantonese language to listening to and reading opera lyrics.



### **Understanding Indonesian Textiles: Seeing Culture in Cloth (via Zoom)**

Friday 04 December, 2020

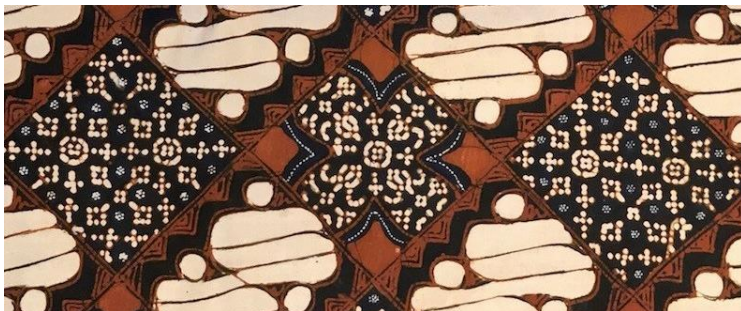
Speaker: William Ingram

Many aspects of Indonesia's indigenous material culture, particularly the textile arts, embody social and spiritual information and meaning in their motifs, visual structures, making, and uses. They are

mnemonics for stories, poetry and myths that root a people in historical, social and ecological context. Congruent concepts occur over and over in different aspects of material culture and are expressed on different scales, with parallels in a community's social institutions.

A person growing up within such a culture is immersed in this milieu. Understanding resides in the muscle memory of repeated tasks. No one person holds it all. Knowledge is dispersed across a community and compiled anew in each ritual or social gathering. Mastery is recognized in someone who feels the congruency of underlying connections so deeply that an intellectual understanding emerges.

William Ingram is co-founder of Threads of Life, a Bali-based social enterprise that has worked with over 1000 traditional weavers in 50 communities on 12 Indonesian islands since 1997. As co-director of the Be Bali Foundation since 2002 he has led the organization's support for sustainable use of natural dyes by these same communities. Born in the UK, he has lived most of his life in Japan and Indonesia.



### **Batik Textiles: The Artefacts of Indonesia's Sociocultural Evolution (via Zoom)**

Friday 30 October, 2020

Speaker: Tony Sugiarto

Social standing, political uprising or scientific data visualisation, there is a story behind every batik textile and motif. From simple body covers, batik transforms into contemporary art as a work that represents different

ideologies. Join Tony Sugiarto as he embarks on a historical time train to unravel the social and cultural evolution depicted in Indonesian batik textile throughout history. Discover fun facts, misconceptions and, maybe, decode the message behind your own batik collections!

Tony Sugiarto is the founder of aNERDgallery, the first Singapore-based art platform specialising in textile arts with a focus in Indonesian batik and tenun. Inspired by the rich heritage, the human stories and the interesting intersection of arts and science, he set up aNERDgallery to connect artists and communities to learn about the culture, technological development and historical significance of these ancient art techniques.

### **Textiles 101 at Craft Atelier- limited spots due to social distancing**

Friday 16 October, 2020



Did you ever wonder what a warp was? Or weft? Are you curious about how fiber is spun into yarn? 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 Craft Atelier and TEG co-coordinator, Lynelle Barrett, as they explain various terms to help your understanding and appreciation of textiles. Weaving looms and spinning wheels

will be available for some hands-on experience!

This event is intended for New TEG members and TEG members that missed Textiles 101 last year.

At Craft Atelier, we are in the business of encouraging more people to craft, and more importantly, to embrace and express their creativity in different ways. We offer workshops, individualised instruction and community nights, as well as a studio space where people can drop in to use our equipment, supplies and tools.

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 research. When she can, she travels to learn about weaving and natural dye techniques from indigenous weavers. Lynelle is immediate past co-coordinator of the Textile Enthusiasts Group and continues to advise on the committee.



## Virtual tour of the new ACM Fashion and Textiles Gallery

Friday 02 October, 2020

Speakers: Constance Ong and Anne Champendal

ACM docents Anne Champendal and Constance Ong are going to lead us on a virtual tour of the new ACM Fashion and Textile Gallery.

Constance Ong is Singaporean and has been an FOM docent for over ten years. She is guiding in several national

museums, as well as the National Gallery, and she has been actively involved in research for ACM special exhibitions, including Power Dressing: Textiles from the Chris Hall Collection, Patterns of Trade: Indian Textiles for Export, and the recent Guo Pei exhibition.

Anne Champendal, a Swiss national, has been in Singapore since 2011. She has been an FOM docent at the ACM for almost eight years. She is primarily involved in research for special exhibitions and has co-headed research groups for eight exhibitions, including Joseon Korea, Angkor, Raffles in SEA, Guo Pei, and Living with Ink.

## The Half-Naked Fakir (via Zoom)

Friday 18 September, 2020

Speaker: Marina Thayil



In 1931, during India's struggle for independence, Winston Churchill angrily exclaimed that it was "alarming and nauseating" to see that Gandhi, a London-trained lawyer, had "now become a seditious fakir... striding half-naked up the steps of the Vice Regal Palace... organising and conducting a defiant campaign of civil disobedience". Years later, Gandhi declared that he took the remarks as a compliment. In this lecture, Marina Thayil will discuss this revolutionary in a loincloth and examine the

reasons for Gandhi's personal choice of attire and his search for integrity in identity and appearance. The talk will also address



the decline of the Indian textile trade and the reason for Gandhi's use of the spinning wheel in the struggle for India's independence.

Marina Thayil was a Friends of the Museums docent from 2008 to 2019 at the Asian Civilisations Museum and the Indian Heritage Centre. She has a Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art from the School of Oriental and African Art, London. She is currently based in Marseille, France and also works as an Art Mediator for the Kochi Muziris Art Biennale, Kerala, India.

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Previous years' events listed in the following pages.



### **Kantha Workshop via Zoom in June**

Tuesday 2 June 2020

Speaker: Viraj Thakore

Inspired by discussion in the TEG Textile Study Group, we are starting a group Kantha project to keep our hands busy while staying safely at home. We will run the workshop for one month. The workshop will be on Tuesday

afternoon from 1-2p.m., via Zoom for the full month of June. The dates are the following: June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th.

In this Katha Workshop, we will learn a few basic stitches. If you have never done any hand stitching or are a bit rusty, not to worry, this workshop is meant for beginners. Prior to the workshop beginning, videos will be shared in our group chat as a review of stitches before we begin. We all will take one flower design and everyone will make the same design individually. At the end of the workshop, you will be shown how to finish your work. Max limit of 15 person for the workshop.



### **NEW Textile Study Group via Zoom**

To adapt to the changing times, TEG has launched a Textile Study Group that meets via Zoom video conferencing. Our first theme is Textile Communities of Asia. This group will run from 10 April through 29 May and will meet online every Friday morning at 10:00am. All the presentation slots in this group are full, but it is possible to sit in on the sessions. If you are interested, please email the TEG coordinators at

fomtegsingapore@gmail.com. Participants will need to be members of TEG.



### **CANCELLATION DUE TO COVID19 MEASURES:**

**Rescheduled for Spring 2021**

#### **Shared Passion 2020**

Friday 08 May 2020

Hostess: Janet Stride



### **CANCELLATION DUE TO COVID19 MEASURES:**

**Rescheduled for Fall 2020**

#### **Batik Textiles: The Artefacts of Indonesia's Sociocultural Evolution**

Friday 17 April 2020

Speaker: Tony Sugiarta



## **Private Textile Tour of the Heritage Conservation Centre**

Friday 20 March 2020

Location: Heritage Conservation Centre

32 Jurong Port Road, Singapore 619104

Join us for a private TEG tour of the Heritage Conservation Centre. The HCC is where many of the National Heritage Board museum artefacts are stored and conserved, including textiles. This tour will include a presentation on artefact handling and storage, as well as some hands-on discovery and opportunities for Q & A. For further information, please visit the HCC website.



**CANCELLATION DUE TO COVID19 MEASURES:**

Rescheduled for Spring 2021

## **The Half-Naked Fakir**

Friday 13 March 2020

Speaker: Marina Thayil



**CANCELLATION DUE TO COVID19 MEASURES:**

## **Private Tour of "From the Coromandel Coast to the Straits - Revisiting Our Tamil Heritage"**

Friday 14 February 2020



## **The Influence of Foreign Fashion Trends on Malay Dress**

Thursday 9 January 2020

Venue: Activity Room at the Indian Heritage Centre

In this talk, John Ang will look at the influence of foreign trends on Malay dress – looking at the different origins and the interesting hybrid nature of Malay clothing. As with other fashion styles in clothing, Malay dress is not static but always changing. Rather than seeing particular forms of clothing as Malay dress, he will demonstrate that what really constitutes Malay dress is the manner in which it amalgamated and adapted different fashion styles.

### **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 moved to KL to facilitate his research. He is also accumulating interesting stories about these textiles to compile into a book.



## **TEG Members Only Party: Drinks & Dresses 2019**

Friday 6 December 2019

Hostess: Janet Stride

Celebrate the festive season with textiles and style! Dress up in your favourite ethnic or handcrafted textiles and join TEG at the gorgeous art-filled home of TEG committee member, Janet Stride. Spouses/partners 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!



## Secrets of the Woven Art

Thursday 14 November 2019

Venue: Hassan's Carpets, 315 Outram Rd,  
#02-06 Tan Boon Liat Building, Singapore 169074

Learn about the art of carpet weaving and the centuries of stories and secrets behind it. Step into the world of threads and knots, and be amazed at how a single textile woven on a loom in the house of an Iranian tribal family can hold such rich history in each and every knot. Discover more about the treasured woven art and the secrets of carpet weaving with Mr. Suliman Hamid as he shares his vast knowledge about the history of carpet weaving, origins of designs and the various weaving techniques that distinguish city from village and tribal carpets. Suliman will also touch upon the historical, political, social and commercial influences that have shaped the carpet industry over the years. He will even show you a few museum-quality pieces of his own personal collection.

### About the speaker:

Mr. Suliman Hamid is a connoisseur of carpets who has been in the carpet trade since the 1970s. Coming from a family of carpet merchants spanning over 100 years, Mr. Suliman has been successfully running a 3-generation carpet business, Hassan's Carpets, for the last 50 years in Singapore.



## Reliving the Ancient Silk Road

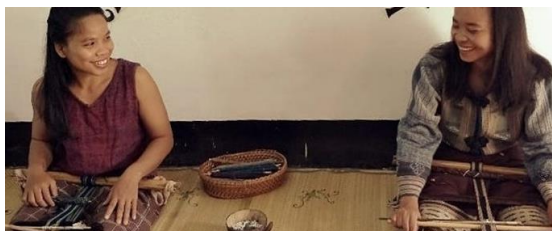
Friday 18 October 2019

Venue: ACM Discovery Room

While most associate silk with the Chinese, the average Han Chinese in ancient China didn't wear silk and the habit of donning silk was very much an aristocratic privilege. Many of the imperial crafts still continue in Japan and China today, including the precious carved silk tapestry kesi weave. This lecture will take you on a 2,000-year journey through the use of silk in China and the evolution of Chinese aesthetics as a result of foreign influences. You will see some of the rare silk crafts mentioned in ancient texts and used only by the imperial family, as well as see some replica dresses from those periods.

### About Gong Pan Pan (hanfugirl)

Pan Pan was born in the very city where some of the earliest, lightest and finest silk garments in Chinese history, dating over 2,000 years ago, were unearthed. As Hanfugirl, she uses photos and social media to tell the visual story of ancient Chinese artforms and material culture, and their inherent connectedness to the rest of the world. She also has a healthy collection of replica dresses and textiles spanning over 2,000 years in style and craft. These days she is gearing up for an immersive dance theatre experience focusing on Tang dynasty fashion, music, dance and material culture.



## Meet the Weaving Sisters

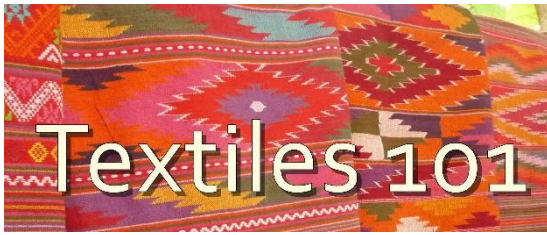
Wednesday 2 October 2019

Join Mone and Keo Jouymany, two Katu weavers (and sisters) from South Laos. Some TEG members may remember meeting Mone a few years ago when she gave a demonstration in the presentation by Dr. Linda McIntosh a few years ago. The Katu and a few, related groups continue to produce cloth on foot-braced, backstrap looms, a weaving device rarely used beyond a tiny area in Mainland Southeast Asia, presently. Katu textiles are distinct for their inclusion of beads to form patterns while weaving. Mone returns to Singapore with her sister Keo to give a Katu-style weaving demonstration, and to offer optional classes to TEG members. Janet Stride will host this event in her stunning new home and has offered to give us a bit of a tour as well.

If you are interested in taking a weaving lesson on a Katu backstrap loom at this event, please contact Lynelle at [fomtegsingapore@gmail.com](mailto:fomtegsingapore@gmail.com) for more information. The Weaving Sisters will bring a range of Katu textiles and clothing to the



event. If you are interested in a tailored jacket of your own, Lynelle can connect you to Mone in advance to discuss available sizing and colours.



## **Textiles 101**

### **Morning Session & Afternoon Session**

Friday 27 September 2019

Speaker: 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. Weaving looms will be available for some hands-on experience! Space is limited, so this event is for TEG members only. If we have a lot of interest, we can offer a second session of Textiles 101 later in the season. Registered participants will receive the address in Telok Ayer via email about one week before the event.

#### **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.



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

Date: Friday 3 May 2019

Speaker: Alpana 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, Alpana 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.



## **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 Kshettry

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.

## THREADS OF A NEW TRADITION



**Date:** Friday 20 April 2018

**Speaker:** Percy Vatsaloo

**Venue:** Isan Gallery, 42 Jalan Kebagan

Percy Vatsaloo, textile designer and founder of Isan Gallery, started visiting the Isan region of NE Thailand in 1987. He soon discovered handwoven textiles and other local crafts that were rapidly dying out. By the mid-90's, Percy realized that the antique Laotian textiles that he loved so much were becoming both scarce and terribly expensive. He decided to create textiles with his own designs and set up a small weaving team in the village of Ban Borang. Inspired by traditional weaving techniques

such as ikat, brocade and tapestry weaves, he designs wearable art fashioned entirely in silk. The Weaving Village is a socially responsible project that gives women in the countryside a fair income without leaving their village.

Percy will also give a brief introduction to antique Laotian and Cambodian textiles and share how they have influenced The Weaving Project. Some pieces from Percy's private collection will be on display.

## SHARED PASSION





**Date:** Friday 23 March 2018

**Host:** Janet Stride

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.

## BOUND BY TRADITION



**Date:** Friday 23 February 2018

**Speaker:** Fiona Cole

A brief history of women's Kimono and exploration of how the rise to prominence of the obi has influenced dressing.

Join collector of Japanese textiles Fiona Cole as she explores how the kimono evolved from its roots as a Chinese style robe. Learn the story of a simple practical sash that rose to become as much as 4 metres of wide brocade and an integral design element to any modern-day kimono ensemble.

## SPECIAL TOUR OF THE HERITAGE CONSERVATION CENTRE

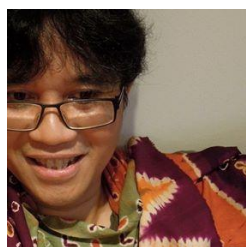


**Date:** Friday 26 January 2018

**HCC Location:** 32 Jurong Port Road

Join TEG for a private tour of the Heritage Conservation Centre (HCC), where many museum artefacts are kept and conserved. HCC staff will be taking us around the crating room, photo studio, artefacts store, and four conservation labs to see how textiles are handled and conserved.

## COLLECTOR'S CORNER: PART 2 BY LEWA PARDOMUAN



**Date:** Friday 3 November 2017

**Speaker:** Lewa Pardomuan

A visit to Lewa's house to view his special textile collection.

Lewa Pardomuan born and raised in Jakarta, he left the Indonesian capital in 2000 for a journalistic posting in Malaysia before moving to Singapore in 2003. He is a passionate collector of Indonesian textiles, an avid traveller and also a Facebook addict. Lewa started collecting textiles and beadwork from various islands and cultures in Indonesia in 1998 after being inspired by an Australian friend. Indonesia's extraordinary textile diversity is unmatched, and his collection of more than 300 pieces from Sumatra to Papua is a tribute to the anonymous yet dedicated weavers in the sprawling archipelago. The precious textiles have been acquired in various places in Indonesia, as well as Singapore, Thailand, Australia, Malaysia and the Netherlands.

## STITCHES OF LOVE – HIDDEN BLESSINGS IN CHILDREN'S CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES



**Date:** Friday 27 October 2017  
**Private Tour by Chey Cheng Lim and Merry Cooper**  
 Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall, 12 Tai Gin Road

Stitches of Love — Hidden Blessings in Children's Clothing and Accessories is a special exhibition co-presented by Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall and the Memorial Museum of Generalissimo Sun Yat-sen's Mansion from Guangzhou, China. The exhibition features over 99 clothing and accessory items from the late Qing to early Republican period, such as hats, earmuffs, bibs and shoes. In ancient Chinese culture, children's clothing and accessories were more than mere adornments of the body – they were bearers of hopes and blessings for their young wearers. These clothing and accessory items often featured

motifs that sought to bestow blessings of good fortune, longevity and health upon their wearers, while others conferred protection from harm. Inspired by the natural world, history, literature and folklore. These motifs were rich in symbolic meaning and were believed by the Chinese to create an environment protected from misfortune and disaster. By wearing clothing and accessories imbued with auspicious blessings, children thus carry these unspoken messages of love, hope and affection.

#### **About Chey Cheng and Merry:**

Both have been members of TEG and FOM Volunteers and Docents for many years. They do not only enjoy their voluntary work but also love textiles!

### A WEAVING EXPERIENCE WITH LYNELLE



**Date:** Friday 22 September 2017  
**Speaker:** Lynelle Barrett

Try out a craft that has flourished since prehistoric times. Join TEG member and textile artist Lynelle Barrett for a special hands-on opportunity to try weaving on different types of looms. Co-teachers for the event will be fellow TEG member Kim Arnold and Lee Yi Yong from *The Blessing Thread*. The event will start with a short introduction to weaving and looms, followed by demonstrations. Then the

participants will have a chance to try each loom – a rigid heddle loom, an eight-shaft table loom, a Lao back-strap loom and an eight-shaft floor loom are expected.

#### **About Lynelle:**

Lynelle Barrett is a passionate textile enthusiast and artisan. Exposure to traditional textile arts through TEG and research to teach fashion students at LASALLE College of the Arts have inspired her to pursue the study of weaving, spinning and natural dyes. Her goal is to learn from indigenous weavers and translate that knowledge to her own creations.

### COLLECTOR'S CORNER: PART II BY PETER LEE



**Date:** Friday 2 June 2017  
**Host:** Peter Lee

Mark your Calendar for another exclusive opportunity to visit Peter Lee's house and his special textile room, particularly after the Port Cities: Multicultural Emporiums of Asia, 1500 – 1900 exhibition.

#### **About Peter:**

Peter Lee is an independent scholar and the Honorary Curator of the Baba House, a historical house museum managed by the National University of Singapore. In 1998 he co-authored *The Straits Chinese House* with Jennifer Chen, published by the National Museum of Singapore in 1998 and 2006. Junk to Jewels -- The Things that Peranakans Value was both an exhibition and catalogue he produced for the Peranakan Museum in 2008. Three years later he co-curated Sarong Kebaya, which opened in April 2011 at the same museum. A book he wrote on the same subject was published in 2014. Peter was a guest curator of *Port Cities: Multicultural Emporiums of Asia, 1500 – 1900*. (4 Nov 2016 - 19 Feb 2017), 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.

### SHARED PASSION



**Date:** Friday 30 April 2018

**Host:** Janet Stride

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.

## RECONNECTING THE DISCONNECTED THROUGH TEXTILES OF THE MALAY MARITIME EMPIRE



**Date:** Tuesday 11 April 2017

**Speaker:** John Ang

**Venue:** Malay Heritage Centre

John Ang will discuss the Malays and their traditional textiles. These textiles will include those of the Langkasuka kingdom of south Thailand and northeast Malaysia, the ikats of Palembang and Bangka, batiks of Jambi, Palembang and Bengkulu for the Malay market, court textiles of west Kalimantan and Malay textiles with Bugis influences from Riau, Johore, Pahang and Terengganu.

John Ang received his M.A. in Asian Art History from the University of Michigan and worked in Tokyo as an art journalist for Japan Times. Later he moved to Taipei where he established a gallery handling fine Asian art and antiques. Under the auspices of his gallery, John has lectured, advised and sourced for major museums in the USA, Taiwan, Singapore (ACM), China and Australia. John has published articles on Asian Art for international magazines and journals, and published the book, 'The Beauty Of Huanghuali Furniture.' His current project is researching textiles of the Malay world and is he focusing on forming a comprehensive collection of these textiles.

## CONFLUENCE BETWEEN TEXTILES AND PAINTING: PRIVATE TOUR AT NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE



**Date:** Friday 3 March 2017

**Speaker:** Julie Williams

**Location:** National Gallery Singapore, 1 Saint Andrew's Road

Please join us for a private tour with Julie through the National Gallery Singapore. Julie Williams joined TEG because she is a professional artist and textile 'nut'! Her artists of influence include Matisse and Vuillard, who both painted textiles. The confluence between textiles and painting has long been a passion and it is one we will be lucky to share. Being a member of TEG also helped her research Laotian textiles before joining a FOM overseas tour last November. Julie is a docent at the National Gallery Singapore and is going to show us works that she feels will be of

interest to our group, including pieces in the permanent South East Asian and Singapore collections, as well as the "Artist and Empire" exhibition.

### About Julie:

Julie is based in the historic area of Tiong Bahru where she paints layers of history including an iconic Peranakan beaded cloth, retro metal security gates and a Nyonya wearing the Baju Panjang. Her interest in Batik from Indonesia is also evident in her new work.

### About the National Gallery Singapore:

The National Gallery Singapore is a new visual arts institution which oversees the largest public collection of modern art in Singapore and Southeast Asia.

## PORT CITIES: MULTICULTURAL EMPORIUMS OF ASIA, 1500-1900 A PRIVATE TOUR WITH NAOMI WANG





**Date:** Friday 10 February 2017

**Speaker:** Naomi Wang

**Venue:** Asian Civilisations Museum, 1 Empress Place, gather in second floor foyer

Traders and migrants, jewellery and multi-coloured cottons, languages and commerce – port cities mix people, merchandise, and ideas. This special exhibition paints a picture of life through photographs, paintings, fashion, luxury goods, and everyday objects. Disembark at ACM for a view of hybrid cultures, ingenuity, and global trends bred in these cosmopolitan centres.

#### About Naomi:

Naomi Wang holds a B.A. in Art History from the University of Toronto. She joined the Singapore Art Museum as Assistant Curator in 2012, overseeing Mainland Southeast Asia acquisitions and exhibitions. She is currently Assistant Curator, Southeast Asia at Asian Civilisations Museum and co-curator of Port Cities: Multicultural Emporiums of Asia, 1500–1900 (2016).

## INDIAN HERITAGE CENTRE PRIVATE TOUR: TEXTILE AND JEWELLERY BY JYOTI RAMESH



**Date:** Friday 20 Jan 2017

**Venue:** Indian Heritage Centre

After 14 years of running her own business in Hong Kong and Singapore, Jyoti Ramesh finds that being a docent at IHC has done marvellous things to her body, mind and intellect. She is the co-head for the docent training program for IHC, so is constantly on the lookout for trainees for the new session beginning in February 2017. (You have been warned!)

#### About IHC

The Indian Heritage Centre (IHC) traces the history of the Indian and South Asian communities in the Southeast Asian region. It houses five permanent galleries, small scale museum facilities, a museum shop, as well as programming and activity spaces. There is currently a special exhibition "Once Upon a Time in Little India" that will continue until July 2017, which tells the story of Singapore's Little India through historical and contemporary lenses, and draws parallels with diasporic settlements across the globe.

## DRINKS AND DRESSES



**Date:** Friday 9 December 2016

**Host:** Janet Stride

Celebrate the festive season with textile and style! Join us for a fun evening and dress up in your favourite ethnic or handcrafted textiles. This event will serve as TEG's Christmas party and guests are asked to bring potluck dishes. Spouses are welcome, but are encouraged to participate in the 'textile spirit'.

## BATIK AS WORLD HERITAGE AND ITS ROLE IN SHAPING OF CONTEMPORARY TEXTILES ACROSS CULTURES



**Date:** Friday 18 November 2016

**Speaker:** Nia Fliam

**Hostess:** Janet Stride

**UNESCO's** recognition of Indonesian batik as an intangible world heritage is one of the primary external indications that the fiber arts of Indonesia, specifically batik, are a cultural heritage of great significance not only to Indonesia, but to the world. Batik is

only one of many fiber art traditions that exist in the Indonesian archipelago.

Creativity is the habitat of all human creatures. A renewal of creativity appears every day and everywhere. Although the basic nature of humans is such, there are vehicles for enhancing such creativity. Such a vehicle is a creative process that can be found in the Javanese batik tradition. It has existed in the archipelago of Indonesia since antiquity and has been passed down as an oral tradition and can be traced in the Javanese culture of the **shadow puppets, literature, the sacred dagger the *keris*, dance and gamelan music**. This process is found as well widely throughout Indonesia and the world amongst other indigenous cultures. In this talk Nia Fliam Ismoyo will share how this process has shaped the batik artwork of the collaborative partnership of her and her husband Agus Ismoyo.

Brahma Tirta Sari Studio, which is a division of the Babaran Segargunung Culture House, was established in 1985 by artists Agus Ismoyo (Indonesian) and Nia Fliam (American). The artists in this studio collaborate to create contemporary fiber art. Rooted in an exploration of traditional creative process, their aim is to understand basic cultural principles underlying intangible cultural heritage in order to utilize it within contemporary creative practice.

Brahma Tirta Sari and their artists have participated in many prestigious exhibitions throughout the world and worked with renowned curators. Since 1994 they have collaborated with African, Australian Aboriginal and Native American First Nation artists as well as with artists from Asia, America, Europe and Australia.

## PAGONG RENAISSANCE



**Speaker:** Mr Kameda Kazuaki of Pagong

**Date:** Friday 28 October 2016

As the number of women wearing kimono in Japan has declined, specialist textile artisans look to conserve the material culture once used for those garments by venturing into new areas. Utilising a rich history of nearly a century producing *kyo-yuzen* fabric at a company started by his grandfather, Kameda Kazuaki is nurturing the brand Pagong to keep alive this traditional stencil dyeing art. He is producing contemporary pieces such as shawls and shirts as well as collaborating with others on installation art like the "Kimono Forest" on show in Arashiyama, Kyoto. <http://www.pagong.jp/en/about/>

The Textile Enthusiasts Group is delighted to be able to offer a special visit to the exhibition "Pagong Renaissance", introduced by Akiko Silva of [Patch Magic](#), Mr Kameda Kazuaki of [Pagong](#) will explain his latest works with a presentation in the style of an old fashioned kabuki story teller.

## BLACK SHIPS AND WHITE CATS



**Speaker:** Fiona Cole

**Date:** Friday 21 October 2016

**How the history of Japan from the Edo Period onwards influenced kimono design** | The story of how Japan changed from a closed feudal society during its Edo Period (1603 -1867) to a modern nation in the present day can be read not only in the pages of history, but also in the designs on that most iconic garment, the kimono. Illustrated with examples from the speaker's collection, the talk will look at how momentous events such as the arrival of

Commodore Perry's American 'black ships' and WWII influenced its design.

## PRIVATE TOUR OF THE EXHIBITION NYONYA NEEDLEWORK: EMBROIDERY AND BEADWORK IN THE PERANAKAN WORLD



**Speaker:** Jackie Yoong, Curator, Peranakan Museum

**Date:** Friday 9 September 2016

**Location:** Peranakan Museum, 39 Armenian Street

### **Nyonya Beadwork and Embroidery**

This exhibition celebrates the art of nyonya needlework, a vibrant part of Peranakan Chinese heritage. Spectacular curtains and hangings, delicate purses, handkerchiefs, and slippers were painstakingly stitched with tiny beads, silk, and gold and silver threads for special occasions and as gifts.

Some of the finest examples of nyonya needlework, from the Peranakan Museum and major international collections, will be displayed. Visitors can discover the ingenuity and skill embedded in the art, the importance of tradition, and the innovations inspired by the dynamic, multicultural environment of the region.

## **THE HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF KEBAYA**



**Date:** Friday 29 April 2016

**Speaker:** Raymond Wong

**Location:** Kim Choo shop, 109 East Coast Road

Discover the history and evolution of the Nyonya Sarong Kebaya. Raymond Wong will discuss how the political and social norms of different eras have affected the styles of the Sarong Kebaya. Kim Choo has their own restaurant, so for those of you who may wish to stay and enjoy a Nyonya lunch, kindly indicate your interest upon RSVP or before the talk begins.

## **JAPANESE WOODBLOCK PRINTING - A MARRIAGE OF WOOD & PAPER**



**Date:** Friday 29 April 2016

**Speaker:** Jennifer Lim

Join Australian artist Jennifer Lim as she demonstrates the fascinating art of Japanese woodblock printing. Jennifer will show the steps in creating her handmade prints, using traditional techniques learned from renowned Japanese printmaker Akira Kurosaki. Mokuhanga is the same printing technique refined by the Japanese craftsmen who produced masterpieces for artists such as Hokusai, Hiroshige and Utamaro. Jennifer will speak about the concepts underpinning her practice as a full-time artist in Singapore and discuss artwork from her recent collection.

## **THE LANGUAGE OF DIAMONDS IN FASHION**



**Date:** Friday 11 March 2016

**Speaker:** Jun Mori

Ms Jun Mori of Moriya Singapore will share her knowledge of "The Language of Diamonds in Fashion". Ms Mori will briefly introduce the history of diamonds, then explore the concept of weaving diamonds into handmade materials and textiles. She will highlight special dresses, as well as old and new fashions that incorporate this concept.

## **SPECIAL TOUR OF THE HERITAGE CONSERVATION CENTRE**





**Date:** Friday 5 February 2016  
**Location:** 32 Jurong Port Road

We have a private tour scheduled at the Heritage Conservation Centre. The HCC is where many museum artefacts are kept and conserved, including textiles. This tour will include a presentation on artefact handling and storage, as well as some hands-on discovery and opportunities for Q & A.

## MONE JOUYMANY: KATU WEAVER



**Date:** Friday 15 January 2016  
**Speaker:** Mone Jouymany

Mone Jouymany is a member of the Katu ethnic group, one of the cultures residing in Laos' southern region. The Katu produce cloth on back strap looms and are known for the woven beadwork that embellishes their clothing and ceremonial items. Mone is a skilled weaver from a family of weavers. She now has her own business in Luang Prabang, giving lessons on how to weave with a back-strap loom or Katu-style weaving. Mone will give a demonstration for the group, and will also be available for private lessons from 11-16 January.

## DRINKS & DRESSES



**Date:** Friday 11 December 2015  
**Program:** Drinks & Dresses

Celebrate the festive season with textile and style! Join us for a fun evening and wear your favourite costume. Spouses are welcome but are encouraged to participate in the 'textile spirit'. This event will serve as TEG's Christmas party and guests are encouraged to bring potluck dishes.

## THE DISTINCTIVE COLOUR, PATTERN AND BEAUTY OF JAPANESE NOH COSTUME



**Date:** Friday 6 November 2015  
**Speaker:** Terai Chikage  
**Location:** Seminar Room, Indian Heritage Centre

Noh actor (shite kata, or actor of principal roles) Terai Chikage, of the Kanze School of Noh, will be speaking about the distinctive colour, pattern, and beauty of Japanese Noh costume. Her first performance on stage was at the age of three. She studied under her father, Terai Sakae, of the Kanze school and graduated from Tokyo University of the Arts.

## SHARED PASSION



**Date:** Friday 23 October 2015  
**Host:** Janet Stride

TEG members always look forward to Shared Passion month. This annual event is an excellent opportunity to meet with new and existing members, and of course to see and learn from fellow members at this show-and-tell event!

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 and share their piece.

## SECRETS OF THE WOVEN ART



**Date:** Friday 8 May 2015

**Speaker:** Suliman Hamid

**Location:** Hassan's Carpets Pte. Ltd, 19 Tanglin Road, Tanglin Shopping Centre #03-01/06

Step into the world of threads and knots. Be amazed at how a single textile, woven on a loom in the house of an Iranian tribal family, can hold such rich history in each and every knot. Discover more about the treasured woven art with Mr. Suliman Hamid as he shares his vast knowledge about the history of carpet weaving, the origins of designs, and the various weaving techniques that distinguish urban from village and tribal carpets. Suliman will also touch upon

the historical, political, social and commercial influences that have shaped the carpet industry over the years. A few museum-quality pieces from his personal collection will also be on view.

About the speaker: Mr. Suliman Hamid is a connoisseur of carpets who has been in the carpet trade since the 1970s. Coming from a family of carpet merchants dating back 100 years, Mr. Suliman has been running a 3-generation carpet business, Hassan's Carpets, in Singapore for 45 years.

## JUST BEADS



**Date:** Friday 10 April 2015

**Speaker:** Sabine Silberstein

**Host:** Digna Cruzem Ryan.

Sabine will share her passion for beads with TEG members. Her presentation will include an overview of the history of beads and discuss the use of beads on textiles and fashion accessories. A special demonstration of how to string a necklace will be take place. After her talk, Sabine is offering a private bead workshop at her residence. (At this time, only the waitlist is available for the workshop.)

About the speaker: Sabine Silberstein relocated from Switzerland to Singapore in 1996. She discovered FOM a year later and became a docent in several museums. She fell in love with beads and creative stringing about 15 years ago, and now loves combining natural stones and other unusual beads in her creations.

## INDIGO - A UNIVERSAL OBSESSION BY MARGARET WHITE



**Date:** 13 March 2015

**Venue:** Ixora, The Peranakan Museum, 39 Armenian Street

Blue is one of nature's rarest colours. The story of indigo is a fascinating one that stretches and links virtually every known culture and major religion. For almost five millennia, it has been one of the world's most valued commodities. Its unique production methods have often been associated with spiritualism and myth. Mark your calendar and join the speaker, Margaret White, as she traces some of the history of indigo, its production, and its symbolism with reference to the Asian textile tradition.

## THE VOYAGE OF THE FLOWERING BASKET: SOUTHEAST ASIAN TEXTILES AND THE INFLUENCE OF TRADE TEXTILES FROM INDIA



**Presented By:** Kim Jane Saunders

**Date:** 6 March 2015

Indian Trade Textiles have traditionally had a direct appeal to the Southeast Asian Market and the markets in Southeast Asia have traditionally valued Indian Trade Textiles and have incorporated aspects of these textiles into indigenous production and culture. In this talk Kim Saunders will examine the influence of Indian Trade Textiles in Indonesia and Southeast Asia through types of textiles, trade and influence, yarns used, patterning and weaving techniques e.g. block printing, ikat and supplementary weaving,

dyes and their production e.g. use of indigo (blue), morinda citrifolia (red) and mordant printing and chemical dyes; the

weaving process: motifs, symbolism and uses.

## NATURAL DYES AS INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF JAPAN BY NAOKO MATSUYAMA.



**Date & Time:** 6 Feb 2015

**Venue:** Ixora at The Peranakan Museum 39 Armenian Street

Japan is an island country, which has four distinct seasons. Meaning it is abundant with nature. In our clothing cultural history, we used to dye the same clothing again and again according to the season or once the clothing became old. The presentation will share what is called the "intangible cultural heritage" of natural dye in Japan today and some of Naoko's experimental work of natural dye that uses Japanese vintage fabrics.

## THE TIMELESS APPEAL OF THE INDIAN SARI



**October 2014**

**Speaker:** Sarita Alurkar-Sriram

**Program:** This festive Deepavali Season, experience the magic of the fascinating and glamorous Sari. The yards and yards of colourful textile invoke the image of timeless elegance and modern avant-garde chic. Through regional folklore, colourful myths, and symbolic motifs, this presentation will showcase the history and heritage of the Sari, introducing types from different parts of India and focussing on two resplendent styles: the Paithani of Maharashtra, and the Pochampally of Andhra Pradesh. There will be a range of saris to try on and transform into graceful models, which of course could be YOU too!

Sarita Alurkar-Sriram is a marketing professional, a writer of non-fiction and travel and a Hindustani classical singer. Sarita has long been fascinated by the Sari and has spent several summers visiting villages in various parts of India, researching their textile traditions. She has written several articles based on these visits. Sarita gives regular talks at museums, libraries and other forums in Singapore and abroad.

## COLLECTOR'S CORNER



**September 2014**

**Speaker:** Peter Lee

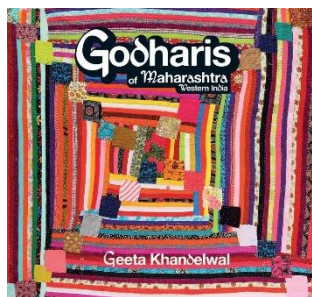
Peter Lee is an independent scholar and the Honorary Curator of the Baba House, a historical house museum managed by the National University of Singapore.

In 1998 he co-authored *The Straits Chinese House* with Jennifer Chen, which was published by the National Museum of Singapore in 1998 and 2006. *Junk to Jewels -- The Things that Peranakans Value* was both an exhibition and catalogue he produced for the Peranakan Museum in 2008. Three years later he co-curated *Sarong Kebaya*, which opened in April 2011 at the same museum. A book he wrote on the same subject will be published in 2014.

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 therefore comprises mainly batiks from the north coast of Java, and Indian trade cloths made for Europe, Japan, Iran, Sri Lanka, and the Malay Archipelago.

## GODHARIS OF WESTERN INDIA -- MAHARASHTRA





**September 2014**

**Speaker:** Geeta Khandelwal

Born in Mumbai, Geeta Khandelwal is a skilled needlewoman, who commenced embroidery and quilting as a hobby at an early age. In 1977, she began training under-privileged women in Bombay to do fine quilting. This soon grew into a flourishing business, and the quilts were sold to high-end department stores in France, Spain, Germany, Sweden, and Japan.

Geeta has participated in many quilt exhibitions including the Houston Quilt Festival in USA, and the Patchwork Quilt Festival of Alsace in France. She has marketed her quilts successfully at Textile Fairs in Frankfurt, Berlin, and Paris. Her quilts have been featured in the magazines "Patchwork Tsushin" in Japan and "Hands All Around" in the USA.

Geeta travelled throughout Maharashtra State, documenting and photographing the everyday lives of village women while producing "Godharis of Maharashtra", India's first book of quilt making by rural women.

## INDAK AT HABI: THE PHILIPPINE THROUGH DANCE AND FABRIC



**June 2014**

**Speakers:** Digna Ryan and Celia Defacto

**Program:** Movement (Indak) and Woven cloth (Habi) play a vital part in people's lives. In the Philippines, as in most Asian cultures, women are still the primary producers of cloth and weaving is a craft prevalent from North to South provinces. Traditional dance is a vehicle for various rites of passage---from birth to death rituals, milestone celebrations to everyday situations. With June celebrated worldwide as Philippine heritage month, a delightful presentation of interplay between dance and fabric was hosted by FOM.

## THE UNFORTUNATE EFFECTS OF CHAMPAGNE: A PEEK BEHIND THE SCENES OF A COSTUME EXHIBITION



**May 2014**

**Speaker:** Lynelle Barrett

Enthusiasts of costume and textiles would like them highlighted in more museum exhibitions, and are often frustrated at how long the wait is between costume exhibitions. Many museums have extensive collections of costume in their archives. Why can't we see them more often?

The answer lies in how much work goes into preparing the garments and mannequins for exhibition. Lynelle Barrett shared her experience of working on a large exhibition of women's costume at the Cincinnati Art Museum. She discussed some of the restoration work, conservation issues, and mannequin preparation involved in creating the exhibit.

Designing a costume exhibition includes fitting the mannequins with period hairstyles in a way that does not distract from the garments. Lynelle also did a demonstration showing how she created the paper sculpture wigs used in the exhibit.

## MALAYSIAN BATIK: PRACTISE, TRANSMISSION OF TECHNIQUE, LOCAL IDENTITY, AND DYE MATERIALS



**April 2014**

**Speaker:** Nik Faiz

Nik Faiz, founder of Ruzz Gahara, is a batik artist and enthusiast. His family had a textile trading business, and he was inspired by textiles from a young age. Later he became an expert on Malaysian batik, and now his mission is to bring this fabric to the world market. In his presentation, he shared details of the batik process, and his vision for the future of handmade batik. To learn more about Ruzz Gahara, visit their website at [www.ruzzgahara.com](http://www.ruzzgahara.com)

## FLOATING FIBRES, GOLDEN THREADS: THE WORLD OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN SONGKET



**March 2014**

**Speaker:** Kim Jane Saunders

Throughout Southeast Asia three main techniques dominate the decoration of locally produced textiles. One is ikat, a tie and dye technique, in which either the weft threads, the warp threads or in the case of Balinese Kain Geringsing, both warp and weft threads are tied and dyed with a pattern before weaving. The second is Batik, a wax resist dyeing technique in which cloth is decorated with a wax pattern, dyed, re-waxed and re-dyed until the desired colour palette is achieved. The third is songket, a supplementary weaving technique, whereby the pattern is created during the weaving process by using a

supplementary thread, either gold or silver thread or coloured silks. Songket or Sungkit is undoubtedly the most sumptuous and is a traditional technique which is well known in Malaysia, Indonesia, particularly Sumatra and Bali, and Brunei.

Songket belongs to the brocade family. Its origins are not well documented but it is known to have existed in Peninsular Malaysia since the 13th and 14th centuries, a time of very active trade and exchange between East and West. Common belief is that the technique may well have originated in India and spread via the Sumatran kingdoms of Palembang and Jambi when the Sri Vijayan thalassocracy was at its zenith. Once the preserve of the nobility and the very wealthy it is still a popular choice for important celebrations, especially weddings. As a result, contemporary production of songket is still a vibrant feature of Southeast Asian textile traditions today.

## HANDMADE IN ASIA: WEAVING THE COSMIC SERPENT IN LAOS



**February - April 2014**

The *Handmade in Asia* series celebrated the history of the decorative arts in Asia by making connections with the memory of the hands and societies that produce them. Its aim was to share this knowledge to widen public engagement in the arts. *Weaving the Cosmic Serpent in Laos*, the first in the series, was a community exhibition that centred on woven cloth, design, and community. Members of the Textile Enthusiasts Group were invited to attend the opening event. Exhibition Venue: Asian Civilisations Museum

## SAZIGYO, BURMESE MANUSCRIPT BINDING TAPES: WOVEN MINIATURES OF BUDDHIST ART BY RALPH ISAACS



**January 2014**

Mr Ralph Isaacs, who was Director of the British Council in Yangon from 1989 to early 1994, gave an illustrated talk on *sazigyo*. *Sazigyo*, tapes or ribbons were used for binding bundles of palm-leaf manuscripts. The woven bands were commissioned by Buddhist donors gifting a scriptural manuscript to a monastery to make spiritual merit in order to attain a better rebirth and ultimately nirvana. The texts display the creative exuberance of the weavers and reveal the cultural and religious sensibilities of their times. The weavers employed the double-faced weave which enables complex script, decorative motifs and miniature pictorial images. Some of these tapes show breath-taking skill. The craft flourished for a couple of centuries, but is now extinct.

Mr Isaacs introduced his recently published book about *sazigyo*, written at the urging of master-weaver Peter Collingwood, who considered *sazigyo* weavers among the best ever, and deserving of posthumous recognition. It is dedicated to the memory of Peter Collingwood and published by Silkworm Books with a grant from the James H W Thompson Foundation.

## SHIBORI WITH SUSAN THOMS



**Friday 29 Nov 2013**

Sue's presentation included: An introduction to Shibori, resist dyeing methods, fabric manipulation in Shibori fashion, and a Q&A session.

Sue Thoms graduated from La Salle College of the Arts with a degree in Fashion Design and now specialises in dye techniques, felting and screen printing in her textile art. Sue is passionate about silks and wools and continues to experiment with textile manipulation

in her bespoke garment collections. Sue introduced the traditional Japanese methods of dyeing known as Shibori, using binding, stitching, folding, twisting and compression methods. The most popular methods of Shibori include Kanoko, involving binding certain sections of the cloth to achieve the desired pattern, and Arashi, also known as pole-wrapping shibori. The result of these methods of dyeing are dynamic and vibrant textiles offering movement, structure and lustre to contemporary fashion.

## FIBRE TO FABRIC



**Saturday 5 Oct 2013**

**Venue:** 16 Ann Siang Road #01-01

**About the Artist:** Screen printing, block printing and resist dyeing, an exhibition showcasing the versatility of Textiles and Fibre arts and possibility of meeting some artists for this exhibition.

## MEET THE ARTIST, ASIF SHAIKH



**Friday 4 Oct 2013**

**Venue:** SEVIIN at TANGS Orchard, 310 Orchard Road

**About the Artist:** Born in a city world-renowned for its rich culture and textile heritage, Asif possessed an early passion for embroidery which eventually led him into fashion and recently into an exclusive range of home textiles. His background in design, combined with a deeply held aesthetic awareness and meticulous attention to detail, allows Asif to fuse fabric and embroidery into unique art pieces and enduring fashion.

Using only the finest available Indian produced handmade, hand dyed natural fabrics with a preference for the



organic, and Asif's creations are a clever juxtaposition of contemporary style and traditional textile techniques.

## COLLECTOR'S CORNER

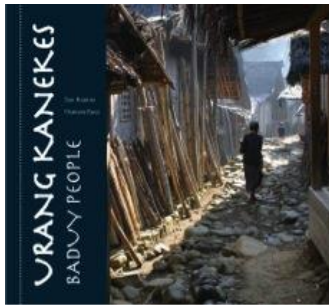


### Thursday 13 June 2013

Join us for the morning to hear the story of one member's journey into textile collecting. The session will be illustrated with pieces that have been significant along the way from a personal point of view.

About the Speaker: Fiona Cole is originally from London where she worked in the financial industry for a Japanese institution. Transferring with her husband to Asia for an expected 3-5 year assignment she has seen that timescale extend somewhat with time spent in Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore, and a total of 8 years in Japan.

## TEXTILES OF THE URANG BADUY



### Thursday 16 May 2013

Not far from the busy metropolis of Jakarta lived the Urang Kanekes commonly called the Urang Baduy. Their villages are nestled in the Kendeng mountain ranges in Banten, West Java about 3 hours away from the city of Jakarta. To the Urang Baduy, wearing traditional clothing is a sign of respect to their tradition and ancestors. They dress very simply and the traditional color is mainly black, blue and white. The short presentation is a challenging study of the Baduy textiles, which I think only scratch the surface.

About the Speaker: Filomena Reiss is originally from the Philippines. She has lived in Jakarta, Indonesia since 1996. While her husband was busy working, she joined the Indonesian Heritage Society, volunteering as a Study Tour leader. After leading group visits to Kanekes/Baduy settlement, she developed a deep interest in Baduy textiles and production techniques. She is hopeful that the Urang Baduy weavers will find a way to market some of their textiles so that this fragile weaving tradition will not be lost forever.

## CELEBRATING WOMEN



### Friday 26 April 2013

**Program:** One East Asia Gallery graciously opened their doors to an exclusive artists talk given by two participants in their "Celebrating Women" exhibition. Izziyana Suhaimi and Valerie Ng, both use textile elements and techniques in their works although in very different ways. The artists generously gave the group interesting insights into their personal inspirations and technical challenges.

## TEXTILES OF EASTERN INDONESIA IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



**Friday 8 February 2013**

In this talk, Genevieve Duggan examined textiles of eastern Indonesia from Sulawesi to the Moluccas and the province of Nusa Tenggara Timur in their historical perspectives.

## JAPANESE FABRIC REINVENTED: AKIKO SILVA



**Thursday 24 January 2013**

The beautiful smooth silk of a kimono paired with a heavy brocade obi makes a stunning outfit, but with imagination and creativity these amazing fabrics can be used in many other non-traditional ways too. Akiko Silva of Patch Magic boutique demonstrated how to repurpose Japanese fabric for international tastes.

## ANTIQUE LAO TEXTILES BY PERCY VATSALOO



**Thursday 22 Nov 2012**

**Venue:** 42 Jalan Kebajikan

Percy Vatsaloo, a Singaporean, was trained as an Architect at National University of Singapore and graduated in 1982. In 1985 during the recession, he left his architectural job in search of his soul. In 1987, his wanderings brought him to the Korat Plateau, often referred to as Esarn or North-Eastern Thailand.

## ANTIQUE CENTRAL ASIAN TEXTILES: A VISUAL JOURNEY BY MARGARET WHITE



**Tuesday 16 Oct 2012**

A presentation by Margaret White on an examination of textile designs, techniques and their transmission through Central Asia with focus on examples from Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

## ISAN TEXTILES



**Monday 1 Oct 2012**

A talk with Patricia Cheesman with a presentation of women's, men's, Buddhist and household textiles of the Lao and Phutai peoples of Isan, Northeast Thailand.

## THE WEDDING DRESS EXHIBITION AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE

**Wednesday 19 Sept 2012**

**Program:** A guided Tour by an FOM Docent of the Wedding Dress Exhibition, a collection from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, on the history of the dress and its enduring popularity from the early 1800s to the present day through fascinating accounts about the lives of the wearers, their fashion choices and the economic and social conditions of the time.

## VISIT TO SARONG @ ESPLANDE



**30 May 2012**

**Program:** TEG met Agus Ismoyo & Nia Fliam, collaborating batik artists from the studio Brahma Tirta Sari in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, exhibiting in the Esplanade with their exhibition 'Sarong'. For more information on their work, go to [www.brahmatirtasari.org](http://www.brahmatirtasari.org).

## PRIVATE TOUR OF THE HERITAGE CONSERVATION CENTRE



**Thursday 24 May 2012**

**Program:** A special private tour of the Heritage Conservation Centre (HCC) where all/most museum artefacts are kept and conserved especially TEXTILES. For further information please visit on HCC's website.

## KIMONO: UNCOVERING A TRADITION TOUR



**Thursday 26 April 2012**

**Program:** The graceful elegance of kimono-clad ladies has been a feature of Japan for centuries. We learned a little of the history of this garment, its many different styles, materials and motifs, and uncovered the complexities beneath the refined exterior with a demonstration of how the kimono is worn. Our speaker Fiona Cole spent 8 years living in Tokyo and developed a love of Japanese textiles.



## "THE INFLUENCE OF INDIAN TRADE TEXTILES IN MAINLAND SOUTHEAST ASIA -- EXAMPLES FROM THE TILLEKE & GIBBINS TEXTILE COLLECTION"

BY LINDA S. MCINTOSH, PH.D.



**Friday 20 April 2012**

**Program:** Dr. Linda S. McIntosh, consulting curator of the Tilleke & Gibbins Textile Collection, gave a presentation on various hand-woven textiles produced in Mainland Southeast Asia that were inspired by Indian trade textiles. The patola was the most influential trade textile in the mainland, and it was reproduced in weft ikat rather than double ikat technique by weavers in Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand. The brocades from Varanasi (Banares) were also replicated by weavers in these countries, and the locally woven versions were used in clothing styles of the courts. No surviving examples of patola have been found in Mainland Southeast Asia, but some brocades, especially

those worn as drama costume, have survived. The presentation will be illustrated with examples from the Tilleke & Gibbins Textile Collection.

## PATTERNS OF TRADE TOUR



**Wednesday 28 March 2012**

**Program:** A private tour of ACM's latest textile exhibition featuring Indian trade textiles. Kim Jane Saunders is the author of *Contemporary Tie and Dye Textiles of Indonesia* (OUP 1997) and contributing author in *Tenun: Handwoven Textiles of Indonesia* (2011). Her passion for textiles began in the National Museum, Jakarta, Indonesia whilst serving as Chairman of the Indonesian Heritage Society. As an historian and teacher she has worked with the educational travel and tourism industry in Asia for the last twenty years, promoting awareness and appreciation for locally produced contemporary Southeast Asian textiles. She leads expeditions and lectures regularly to international specialist interest groups. Her own textile teaching collection continues to grow.

## JAVANESE BATIK FROM THE VARIOUS REGIONS OF INDONESIA TOUR



**Wednesday 14 March 2012**

**Program:** Many of us own Indonesian batik pieces but weren't quite sure where they came from. Ibu Tumbu Ramelan--a connoisseur of Indonesian Batik, as well as the Director of the Batik Museum in Jakarta--kindly consented to give a talk to us on her favourite subject. She is also the author of the book entitled *20th Century Batik Masterpieces*.

## FABRIC OF LIFE AND DEATH: WHITE COTTON CLOTH AMONG THE TAI

**Wednesday 29 February 2012**

**Program:** Plain-weave, white cotton cloth is a more important symbol of women's power in Tai cultures than their celebrated and elaborate mat mi and khit patterned textiles. Our speaker, Dr. Leedom Lefferts, Senior Research Fellow at the ACM, shared with us his knowledge of weaving processes, as well as the crucial role of this simple fabric in Tai life and death. Videos were shown of weaving and Thai holidays and religious celebrations that showed the role of plain-weave, white cotton cloth.

## TRADITIONAL INDIA KANTHA EMBROIDERY

**Thursday 26 January 2012**

**Program:** TEG kicked off the new year with a show and explanation of Kanda Embroidery by Divya Bidana on 26 January held in the amazing home of TEG Committee member, Connie Kirker. Divya deals in Indian crafts and she began by explaining Kanda embroidery from Bengal, India. She also brought a luggage load of pieces to demonstrate her talk. Before Divya could proceed very far in her speech, our Textile Enthusiasts delved into her pile of exhibits and Divya quickly obliged by explaining the special characteristics of each piece. Simply put, Kantha embroidery is executed in running stitch. Just by using this one type of stitch, interesting designs, geometric or otherwise, and floral & animal shapes can be created. The embroidery is usually done on fine cotton, gauze or tasser silk. Embroidered articles ranged from large pieces of hangings, bedcovers & saris to cushion covers, handbags, stoles & dupattas. The embroidery pieces were exquisite & beautiful, all fully hand embroidered. Some members also brought their personal Kanda-embroidered pieces to share with the group. Rosy came in a kanda embroidered sari.

After we had examined the pieces, the ladies were invited to have a hand trying out the craft work on pieces of white napkins provided by Connie. The group was so enthusiastic & the novice works so surprisingly interesting that an ad hoc prize was given to the best embroidery (judged by Divya). The prize was a wooden carving of Guan Gong, a Daoist deity won by Madhu (a wonderful gift donated by our kind hostess for the event -- Connie). The morning concluded with tea & snacks by kind courtesy of Connie & Shook. All in all, it was a pleasant morning of learning with some happy purchases, not forgetting the friendly social interactions.

*\* For information on TEG events held prior to 2012, you would need to contact previous TEG coordinators. You may contact the current TEG coordinators for help at [fomtegsingapore@gmail.com](mailto:fomtegsingapore@gmail.com).*