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Announcing the publication of

RE-ENVISIONING JAPAN: MEIJI FINE ART TEXTILES

Edited by John E. Vollmer

Hardcover: 256 pages

Illustrations: 287 color illustrations

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[Re-envisioning Japan: Meiji Fine Art Textiles](#), edited by **John E. Vollmer**, is a comprehensive examination of *bijutsu senshoku*, or fine art Japanese textiles, that generated a flurry of excitement among international markets with their large-scale exquisite designs, innovative techniques and sumptuous artistry between the mid-1870s and the second decade of the twentieth century. Published by [5 Continents Editions](#), an internationally renowned art book company located in Milan, the publication is an indispensable guide to *bijutsu senshoku* and the social, political and aesthetic contexts in which they existed. Written for academic audiences and collectors, this lavishly illustrated book is also accessible to lay readers.

This publication was supported by grants awarded from the Rubin-Ladd Foundation and the Cotsen Foundation for Academic Research.

[Re-envisioning Japan: Meiji Fine Art Textiles](#) traces the origin, development, and decline of fine art textiles, as well as their profound but different effects on both Japan and the West. The book places these textiles within a context of international developments in which Japan and the West were discovering each other, and, at times, opting to ignore new realities.

Japan's unparalleled rise from an isolated feudal country to a world power within four decades at the end of the nineteenth century was also made manifest in its textiles production. The decorative textiles that gained the attention of Western buyers as exotic curios in the 1850s and 1860s became the fine art fabrics of the late nineteenth and early decades of the twentieth centuries, acquiring international prominence and acclaim. Just as quickly, they disappeared into obscurity as tastes shifted and global events overwhelmed the cultural and social systems that had ardently celebrated them.

The volume is edited by John E. Vollmer who also introduces the book and who led the following international scholars contributing to the book:

Professor Takashi Hirota and **Hiroko McDermott** have each pioneered research on the production and distribution of fine art textiles.

Iwao Nagasaki, the leading scholar of Japanese textiles, explores the transition of traditional textile technologies to their modern manifestations.

Asako Nakagawa, a student of both Hirota and Nagasaki, examines participation in international expositions from a Japanese perspective.

Sonia Ashmore and **Will Chandler** offer European and North American perspectives on Japan's fine art textiles.

About John E. Vollmer

John E. Vollmer is president of **Vollmer Cultural Consultants Inc.** specializing in strategic planning and practical program development for not-for-profit public and private sector clients in the fields of museum education, arts and culture in the United States, Canada and Asia. The company is noted for its specialized work with collections of textiles and decorative arts and for developing insightful and accessible museum exhibitions ranging from Chinese textiles to baseball, the fashion designs of Mariano Fortuny to Inuit footwear. Mr. Vollmer is also a noted author and editor.

He has held curatorial appointments at the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, and at the Glenbow-Alberta Institute in Calgary. Mr. Vollmer also served as director of the Kent State University Museum, Kent, Ohio and was the founding executive director of the Design Exchange in Toronto.

In the academic world, he has held appointments at institutions including the University of Toronto, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Dortmund University, Germany and Fen Jen Catholic University in Taipei.

Mr. Vollmer is advisor to the Textiles Asia Journal published in Tokyo as well as editor for the East Asia volume of the award winning ten-volume Berg Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion, the largest reference source on dress and human adornment worldwide.

Born in American Falls, Idaho, Mr. Vollmer was educated at Columbia University (B.A.) in art history and Asian studies, at Harvard University and at the University of Toronto (M.A.).

For a review copy, or to arrange an interview with Mr. Vollmer, please contact Dottie Jeffries, dottie@jeffriesmarketing.com or (917) 445-7876.