

FOR RELEASE
Zurich, April 19. 2018

Kokonkleid- From Art to Fashion



Armour made from Obi silk, KAZU 2018
photo credit: Christian Schnur



Armour with pleated skirt of the Margrave
Albrecht von Brandenburg-Ansbach, c.1526



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On Sunday, June 10th, Kazu Huggler will present her Couture Creations that are inspired by the exhibition "Fashion Drive. Extreme Clothing in the Visual Arts" at the Kunsthaus Zurich. In her talk, she will put Japanese and Western fashion phenomena into dialogue.

At the symposium "Silk, the ancient material of the future" organized by the *Festspiele Zürich* and the *Kunsthaus Zürich*, the "queen of textiles" will be discussed from diverse perspectives. Monika Burri and Roman Wild will describe the history of the silk industry in Zurich whereas Fiorenzo Omenetto will explain novel uses of silk in science and high tech. Kazu Huggler will present her latest couture creations made from silk and tell their story from the idea to the manufacture.

Asked about her contribution, Huggler says: "I had two fascinating starting points - on the one hand silk as the material my collections are made from, and on the other hand the art exhibition "Fashion Drive" at the *Kunsthaus Zürich* that shows how tightly interrelated the histories of art, fashion and society are. My contribution is to follow and understand these interrelations and to use them as a starting point for the creation of something of my own. The ideal that has been guiding my work as a fashion designer is indeed to create esthetical harmony from vibrant juxtapositions."

Kimono silk flows from art into fashion

It is Kazu Huggler's specialty to introduce antique Japanese silk fabrics that are traditionally used for kimonos and obis into a fashion style that reflects the modern, globalized zeitgeist. For her couture collection "*Kokonkleid*", Huggler has personally chosen kimono and obi fabrics in Japan. She has assigned them to selected pieces of art presented at the *Kunsthaus Zürich*. "I am particularly fascinated by those pieces of art that allude to the strained relations between humans and animals, women and men, fight and peace." Huggler says. She has designed dresses that reflect these topics in their form and in the dessin and texture of the silk fabrics. A shimmering victory dress shielded with rosettes folded from obi fabric becomes the counterpart of the pleated skirt armor of margrave Albrecht von Brandenburg-Ansbach dating from the 16th century.

Climbing Carp creates a tie between the Zurich silk industry and Japanese design

For all her couture collections, Kazu Huggler has been using the precious silk fabrics of the Zurich Silk house *Fabric Frontline*. On the occasion of the silk symposium *Fabric Frontline* will print the climbing carp dessin onto exquisite crêpe de chine. The motif of the carp that jumps up the waterfall originates in Chinese mythology. It symbolizes the determination and endurance to overcome hindrances. The Japanese believe that it brings good luck in climbing the social ladder and professional success. Huggler's grandmother Yuriko Yasuda had a climbing carp printed onto her kimono on the occasion of a traditional celebration in the honor of her sons in the 1930's.



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"For me, my grandmother was a style icon", Huggler says. "Therefore, it is a great pleasure to be able to revive the beautiful kimono I have inherited from her!" Climbing carp will be printed in four different colorings. Silk dresses with the motif of the climbing carp will be presented for the very first time at the silk symposium. Afterwards, climbing carp foulards will be available at the museum shop of *Kunsthaus Zürich* and the *Fabric Frontline* boutiques.

Date, Time and place

The symposium will be held in the frame of the *Festspiele Zürich* on Sunday, June 10th 2018 starting at 14:00h in the Baselitz hall of *Kunsthaus Zürich*, Heimplatz 1, 8001 Zurich.

There will be an introduction to the exhibition "Fashion Drive. Extreme Clothing in the Visual Art" by the curator Cathérine Hug from 13:00h to 14:00h.

The symposium will be followed by an Apéro in the Tinguely garden (18:00h – 19:30h).

Tickets are available under:

<http://webshop.zurichticket.ch/thz.webshop/webticket/seatmap?eventId=3441>

More information on *Festspiele Zürich* and *Kunsthaus Zürich* can be found at:

<https://festspiele-zuerich.ch/de/spielplan/11-silk-the-ancient-material-of-the-future/>

<http://www.kunsthhaus.ch/de/ausstellungen/vorschau/fashion-drive/>

<http://www.kunsthhaus.ch/fashion-drive/>

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About Kazu Huggler

Born in Tokyo to a Japanese mother and a Swiss father, Kazu Huggler was raised in both Japan and Switzerland.

After completing the International Baccalaureate in Zurich, Kazu Huggler enrolled in Tokyo's Keio University and graduated with a degree in Japanese History of Art and Aesthetics. Her label is heavily influenced by Japanese themes—kimono patterns, ancient printmaking, Japanese aesthetics, and traditional attitudes/philosophies of dressing. While most of Kazu's inspiration comes from her strong Japanese background, her designs are geared for the global marketplace and made in Switzerland with Bernina sewing machines.

Kazu's pre-design stints include working in the marketing and sales department of Fabric Frontline Zurich where she was responsible for introducing Swiss products to the Japanese market.

After, she enrolled in the Swiss University of Art and Design Hochschule für Gestaltung, and two years later, departed for London's Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design. In London, Kazu apprenticed with Vivienne Westwood. Kazu is no stranger to textiles; in addition to her custom couture line, she creates original prints and designs high-end sterling silver bags and accessories. Kazu resides in Zurich with her family and travels frequently to Tokyo where she is show casing her latest collections and collaborations.

Since March 2011, she has been actively involved in restoration projects in the north of Japan and has donated Bernina sewing machines to high schools hit by the disaster. Kazu has also committed to the long-term support of the citizens of Rikuzen Takata region in Iwate Prefecture and founded a non-profit organization Three Cranes Association.

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