

HOSOO GALLERY

HOSOO Co., Ltd., a long-established company in the Nishijin area of Kyoto, Japan has opened HOSOO GALLERY from the start of September 2019. Using textiles as the medium, the gallery will hold exhibitions 2 to 3 times a year with the focus on broadening the horizon of Japanese history and culture.

HOSOO plans to hold programs and talk events where influential Japanese dyeing and weaving craftspeople, domestic and international experts of history and culture, and others can introduce their works and share their wealth of knowledge from new perspectives.

In addition, HOSOO plans to showcase new Nishijin textiles developed resulting from projects by artists and designers in residence and joint projects with universities and research institutes arising from the use of new technologies.

HOSOO GALLERY's opening exhibit, *The Story of Japanese Textiles: Beautiful Textiles of Japan*, is directed by Masataka Hosoo, the 12th generation of the Hosoo family. In this exhibit, Masataka Hosoo presents a video piece and collection of textiles he gathered through his trip to 33 reputable production areas of unique textiles throughout Japan, to document the skill and beauty that has withstood the test of time and continue to awe the world today.

The exhibit features a series of Japanese textiles collected over the course of four years, focusing on the origin of its craft based on the history and terroir of the production areas. From masterpieces created through years of toil by craftspeople, to functional textiles emerging from generations of living a specific lifestyle, the story of each style and the livelihood of the people surrounding it is portrayed through the collection of textiles, raw materials, and tools.

More than 20,000 photographs were taken over the course of the four years documenting the terroir and workplace of the production area. The video piece directed by artist Shiro Takatani is projected onto the threads of a 180 cm wide loom and utilizes these photographs to shine a new light to the textiles by deconstructing and reconstructing the colors and patterns.

These exhibits do not only explain the history and tradition behind the craft and techniques, but they also display the evolution of the textiles produced to this day and the revival of once lost styles to portray the "biography of textiles." By amassing samples from Hokkaido to Okinawa, we hope to highlight the connection between the different textiles and share among a wider audience as a reference for the next generation.

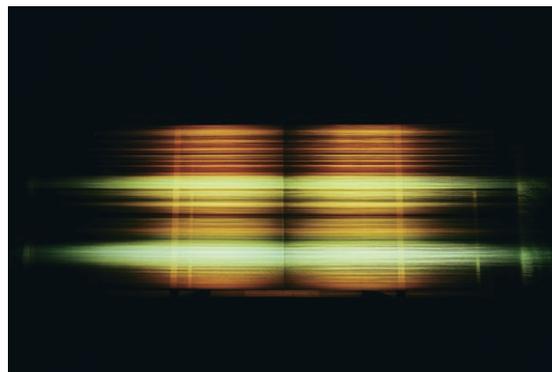
Opening Exhibit

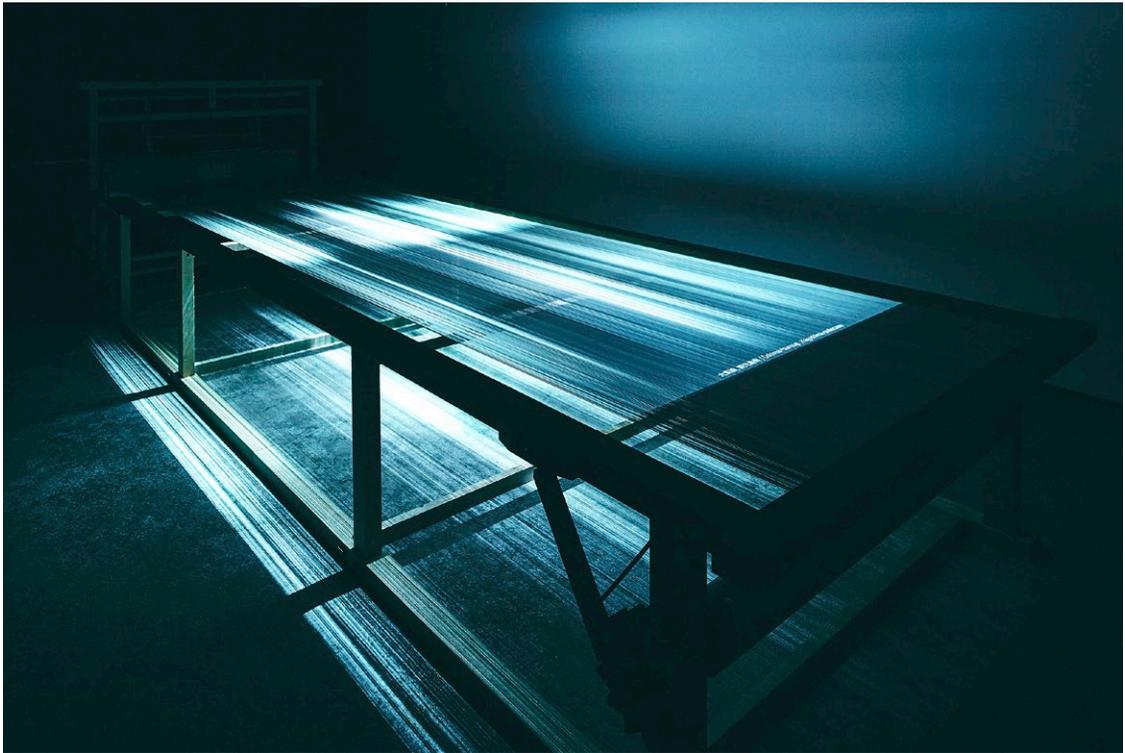
THE STORY OF JAPANESE TEXTILES: Beautiful Textiles of Japan

September–14 December 2019

10:30–18:00 (Admissions close 15 minutes prior to closing time)

Closed on Sundays and Holidays Admission is Free







Masataka Hosoo Profile

Born into the long-established Nishijin family run company, HOSOO in 1978, Masataka Hosoo is currently a managing director of HOSOO and an MIT Media Lab Fellow. After graduating from university, he joined a major jewelry company whilst maintaining activities in music.

After leaving the jewelry company, he studied in Florence, Italy before joining HOSOO in 2008. From there, Masataka Hosoo sought to utilize Nishijin weaving technology and materials, to create textiles that catered towards international markets and for the world's top maison's as clients.

In addition, Masataka Hosoo has been actively collaborating with several artists. In 2012, he jointly started the "GO ON" project with fellow members comprising of the current generation and heads of traditional Japanese crafts companies in Kyoto, Japan.

In 2014, Masataka Hosoo was selected by the Nikkei business magazine as one of the "Top 100 Japanese Leaders." In 2016, he became a Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Lab Directors Fellow, where he undertook the development of innovative textiles by combining Nishijin textiles with the latest technologies.

Shiro Takatani Profile

In 1984, Shiro Takatani joined the artist collective Dumb Type. With the use of various media, he has created performances and installations in places and events such as at the German World Theater Festival, the Festival of Marseille, the New National Theater Tokyo, the Biwako Hall, and the Tokyo Photographic Art Museum. In November 2019, the Dumb Type Exhibition will be held at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo. In March 2020, the New Dumb Type will be performed at the ROHM Theater Kyoto. In 2014, Shiro Takatani received the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award in Media Arts. In 2018, he received the Kyoto Prefecture Cultural Achievement Award.