

Exhibition: *Power of Pattern: Central Asian Ikats from the David and Elizabeth Reisbord Collection*

Date: February 3–July 28, 2019

Location: Resnick Pavilion



Image captions on page 3

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) presents *Power of Pattern: Central Asian Ikats from the David and Elizabeth Reisbord Collection*. On view February 3–July 28, 2019, the exhibition showcases over 60 examples of visually dynamic Central Asian ikat robes and wall hangings. Organized by motif, *Power of Pattern* examines how the region's textile designers, dyers, and weavers used improvisation and abstraction to create textiles unique to Central Asia. The objects on view are drawn solely from the collection of Dr. David and Elizabeth Reisbord. On the occasion of the exhibition, LACMA is pleased to announce the acquisition of all the ikats on display, a generous gift from the Reisbords, strengthening the museum's encyclopedic costume and textiles collection. *Power of Pattern* is curated by Clarissa M. Esguerra, associate curator, Costume and Textiles.

Central Asian ikat textiles are a testament to the power of pattern and are influenced by the various cultures along the historic Silk Road. Employing creative use of scale, proportion, and orientation, with hues that are compelling in their purposeful contrast, these luxury fabrics functioned as beacons of kaleidoscopic color that reflected the

wealth and sophistication of its patrons. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, the region experienced a renaissance in ikat, a technique where silk threads were bound and resist-dyed with a design before weaving into cloth. The result were vivid patterns with blurred, cloud-like juxtapositions of color, known locally as *abrbandi* (literally “cloud binding”). When worn on the body or decorating the home, these textiles resonated against the Central Asian landscape.

Surrounded by present-day Iran, Afghanistan, India, China, Mongolia, and Russia, Central Asia generally refers to the countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. This landlocked Eurasian ecoregion was for thousands of years the center of active trade and conquest that carried various design elements adapted in the area. Though ikat is an ancient textile tradition, 19th-century artisans from oasis towns experimented with textile patterns that recalled motifs that had become prevalent in daily life and nature and traditionally found in the decorative objects produced in the region.

Credit:

This exhibition was organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

This exhibition is supported by The Jacqueline and Hoyt B. Leisure Costume and Textiles Fund.

All exhibitions at LACMA are underwritten by the LACMA Exhibition Fund. Major annual support is provided by Mr. and Mrs. Anthony and Lee Shaw, Kitzia and Richard Goodman, and Meredith and David Kaplan, with generous annual funding from Jerry and Kathleen Grundhofer, the Judy and Bernard Briskin Family Foundation, Louise and Brad Edgerton, Edgerton Foundation, Emily and Teddy Greenspan, Marilyn B. and Calvin B. Gross, Mary and Daniel James, David Lloyd and Kimberly Steward, Kelsey Lee Offield, David Schwartz Foundation, Inc., Andy Song, Lenore and Richard Wayne, and The Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation.

About LACMA

Since its inception in 1965, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography, mirroring Los Angeles’s rich cultural heritage and uniquely diverse population. Today LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of over 139,000 objects that illuminate 6,000 years of art history from new and unexpected points of view. A museum of international stature as well as a vital cultural center for Southern California, LACMA shares its vast collection with the Greater Los Angeles County and beyond through exhibitions, public programs, and research facilities that attract over 1.2 million

visitors annually, in addition to serving millions more through community partnerships, school outreach programs, and creative digital initiatives. LACMA's main campus is located halfway between the ocean and downtown, adjacent to the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum and the future home of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures. Dedicated to serving all of Los Angeles, LACMA collaborates with a range of curators, educators, and artists on exhibitions and programs at various sites throughout the County.

Location: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036. lacma.org

Image caption:

(left): *Woman's Ensemble*, Central Asia, late 19th–early 20th century, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of David and Elizabeth Reisbord, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA

(left-center): *Robe* (Chapan), Central Asia, late 19th century, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of David and Elizabeth Reisbord, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA

(right-center): *Man's Ensemble*, Central Asia, second half of the 19th century, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, promised gift of David and Elizabeth Reisbord, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA

(right): *Robe* (Chapan), Central Asia, third quarter of the 19th century, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, promised gift of David and Elizabeth Reisbord, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA

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