



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:
Stacie Wheelock Adams
work/ 214-271-4485
cell/214-552-6416
sadams@crowcollection.org

CROW COLLECTION OF ASIAN ART HOST RECEPTION UNVEILING NEW ENTRANCE; CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF TWO EXTRAORDINARY JAPANESE EXHIBITIONS

Dallas (Nov. 18, 2014)- The Crow Collection of Asian Art held an exclusive reception Thursday, October 23, 2014 to celebrate the grand reopening of its new pedestrian-friendly entrance, lobby and street-level galleries as well as the debut of two extraordinary exhibitions, *The Mary Baskett Collection of Japanese Fashion* and *Fierce Loyalty: A Samurai Complete*.

Over 150 of Dallas' most prominent art lovers including **Crow Collection of Asian Art Chairman Trammell S. Crow, Art Dealer and Collector Mary Baskett, International Model and Premiere Fashion Event Producer Jan Strimple, Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Dallas John Stich, The Sixth Floor Museum Executive Director Nicola Longford, Oglesby Greene Architects Principal Graham Greene, W.B. Kibler Construction Chief Executive Officer Kirk Kibler, and arts supporters Denny Alberts, Michael Crow, Rena Pederson, Linda Kao, James and Jin Mun, Karol Omlor, Michael Cain, and Paul and Young Cho** among many others, enjoyed an intimate evening of cocktails and mingling as they explored the attributes of the new exhibitions and features of the new museum space.

The evening began at six o'clock with Japanese *taiko* drummers lined on Flora Street welcoming guests to the new entrance. Upon entering the museum, guests were stunned by the illuminated wood-slatted ceiling that connects museum visitors through an open vestibule into an enhanced reception area with striking video imagery. After taking in the entrance and lobby, partygoers were invited to explore the newly renovated galleries and view the avant-garde garments of *The Mary Baskett Collection of Japanese Fashion*. At 6:30pm, Chairman Trammell S. Crow and Executive Director Amy Lewis Hofland treated guests to a dramatic unveiling of the Crow Collection's most spectacular acquisition to date – a complete suit of Samurai armor from the Edo period (1603-1868). Shortly after the reveal, guests made their way to the upstairs galleries where cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were served.

Guests enjoyed a "Fierce Fizz" signature cocktail with sake, champagne and a splash of orange juice as well as a full premium bar. Japanese inspired hors d'oeuvres were served including wasabi crusted chicken bites topped with sriracha aioli, Japanese eggplant and goat cheese bites, *sunomono* cucumber salad with shrimp served in a mini martini glass, beef and asparagus *negimaki* and a diverse assortment

of fresh sushi rolls were available at the Sushi Bar. Guests also enjoyed a dessert bar with delicious offerings from Rush Patisserie featuring green tea macaroons, passion fruit crème cups, mixed berry tarts and mini chocolate mousse bombs. Of course the reception would not be complete without the Crow Collection's signature *Asian Art Now* panel discussion lead by Crow Collection of Asian Art Executive Director Amy Lewis Hofland, Curator Dr. Karin Oen, Collector Mary Baskett and Guest Curator Cynthia Amneus. The group engaged in a fascinating discussion about the influence of Japanese fashion on Western fashion and how these designers, Issey Miyake, Yohji Yamamoto and Rei Kawakubo, produce radical garments with shapes and textures often incongruous with the natural contours of the human body as perceived by Western cultures.

Following the reception, high-level donors of the museum were invited to a private dinner at Trammell S. Crow's residence. Upon arrival guests were greeted by the lovely sound of a harpists stationed on the front lawn and a stunning candle lit walk way leading to the front door. The elegant three course meal was catered by Andrew Ormsby beginning with an ahi tuna carpaccio topped with watermelon radish, olives, vodka crème fraîche and avocado wasabi. For the main course guests enjoyed a tender beef fillet with a wasabi root vegetable purée and sugar snap peas, followed by a mango tart dessert topped with passion fruit anglaise, toasted meringue and lychees.

For press photos of the events, please visit crowcollection.org. From the homepage click on "Explore the Museum" and then go to "Press Room."

The Mary Baskett Collection of Japanese Fashion will be on view through February 22, 2015 and *Fierce Loyalty: A Samurai Complete* is an ongoing exhibition. Admission is free. The Crow Collection of Asian Art is open Tuesdays – Thursdays (10 a.m. – 9 p.m.), Fridays – Saturdays (10 a.m. – 6 p.m.), Sundays (12 p.m. – 6 p.m.) and closed on Mondays. For more information, please go to crowcollection.org or call 214-979-6430.

About the Crow Collection of Asian Art

The Crow Collection of Asian Art features a variety of spaces and galleries with changing exhibitions of the arts of China, Japan, India, Korea and Southeast Asia drawn from cultures ancient and contemporary. Fifteen years in operation, this lovingly curated free museum offers a serene setting for quiet reflection in the heart of the Dallas Arts District. The Crow Collection continues to grow in art and service to the Dallas-Fort Worth community with an emphasis on shared learning and fun.

###