



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Polasek Museum Announces Upcoming Exhibition - Runs August 29-December 3, 2023
Japanese Embroidery: A Journey of Tradition and Innovation

WINTER PARK, Fla. –The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Garden is delighted to host Japanese Embroidery: A Journey of Tradition and Innovation exploring the thousand-year-old technique of traditional Japanese embroidery and its modern adaptations to a global art form. The exhibition will run August 29 – December 3, 2023.

Japanese Embroidery (nihon shishu in Japanese) is characterized by intricate patterns of silk and metallic thread, utilizing traditional symbolic motifs that are stitched onto the finest silk fabrics. This art form is considered one of the most challenging forms of embroidery in the world, due to its emphasis on delicacy and refinement. The result is an exquisite, almost unbelievably detailed composition, when viewed closely one can sense energy, movement, and light reflecting from the finely stitched metallic threads.

Historically nihon shishu was available only to the elite classes of Japan who could afford such costly work, however in recent years this has changed. The cultural heritage of Japanese embroidery has spread worldwide and is practiced internationally by skilled stitchers.

Winter Park resident, Karen Plater, has trained extensively with nihon shishu masters, in the US and Japan for many years. Having mastered the traditional skills, she now creates her own original designs, making adaptations to the traditional uses of color and composition. Plater is a certified Japanese embroidery teacher, (sensei in Japanese) and has trained students for over 20 years, some traveling from as far as Japan to experience her nihon shishu expertise. The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Garden is thrilled to share the life's work of Karen Plater's beautifully crafted Japanese embroidery along with works completed by her students.

Select pieces of artwork will be available for purchase with proceeds to benefit the artists and the hosting museum.

This exhibition is supported by Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, Orange County Art & Cultural Affairs and United Arts of Central Florida.

About the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens: Founded in 1961, the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens preserves the 200+ piece collection of world-renowned Czech-American sculptor Albin Polasek (1871-1965). Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the museum offers guided tours of Polasek's home, studio, and sculpture gardens. Thousands of visitors each year come from all over the world to be inspired by Polasek's story of emigrating to the United States in 1901, becoming a celebrated artist, and continuing to create monumental works of art from his wheelchair after suffering a debilitating stroke at age 70. The museum is also home to the historic 1885 Capen House that was saved from demolition, renovated, and opened to the public in 2015. For more information, visit polasek.org or find us on Facebook and Instagram. The Polasek is proud to be a part of #wpinspires, arts and culture in the City of Winter Park.

For high-resolution images, contact Kaley Craig at marketing@polasek.org.
