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## Thirty Japanese cloths from a recent gift to be displayed at the Fowler Museum

### ***Fowler in Focus: Japanese Pictorial Ikats from the Krauss Collection Opens Jan 8***

In 2008 the Fowler Museum received a donation of an important collection of Japanese textiles from Dr. Jeffrey Krauss of Potomac, Maryland. The collection consists of 201 examples of *e-gasuri*, or “pictures made with *kasuri*,” dating from the early 19th–mid 20th centuries. *Fowler in Focus: Japanese Pictorial Ikats from the Krauss Collection*—on display at the Fowler Museum at UCLA from Jan 8–Apr 29, 2012—offers a first chance to view at the Fowler highlights from this important gift.

*Kasuri* is a rustic type of Japanese ikat cloth, usually dyed deep blue with indigo. Japanese weavers, like their counterparts in South, Southeast, and Central Asia, mastered the art of ikat, or the resist-dyeing of patterns into yarn before it is woven into cloth. Engaging imagery is a hallmark of Japanese *e-gasuri*. On view are highly imaginative pictorial motifs of sake-swilling imps, Buddhist saints in the form of pop-up dolls, turtles trailing seaweed as longevity symbols, battleships at sea, and many others.



*Kasuri* was popularized during the second half of the eighteenth century, and became an important commodity produced in many rural areas of the country. Always woven in narrow widths of about 30-35 centimeters, the cloth was sold in long rolls called *tan*. One *tan* contained about 12 meters of fabric, enough to make one kimono. The cloth was also widely used for making *futonji*, the covers of the comforters used on Japanese *futon* beds. Other uses included the covers of cushions (*zabuton*), gift wrap cloths (*furoshiki*) and door curtains (*noren*).

*Fowler in Focus: Japanese Pictorial Ikats from the Krauss Collection* is curated by Roy Hamilton, senior curator of Asian and Pacific collections, Fowler Museum. It will be on view in the Fowler in Focus gallery, the central space within the long-term exhibition *Intersections: World Arts, Local Lives*. Fowler in Focus is dedicated to rotating installations of new acquisitions, sub-collections, and particular artistic genres in the Fowler’s permanent holdings.

The **Fowler Museum at UCLA** is one of the country’s most respected institutions devoted to exploring the arts and cultures of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the Americas. The Fowler is open Wednesdays through Sundays, from noon to 5 p.m.; and on Thursdays, from noon until 8 p.m. The museum is closed Mondays and Tuesdays. The Fowler Museum, part of UCLA Arts, is located in the north part of the UCLA campus. Admission is free. Parking is available for a maximum of \$11 in Lot 4. For more information, the public may call 310/825-4361 or visit [fowler.ucla.edu](http://fowler.ucla.edu).