

The Japan Foundation presents



JAPAN FOUNDATION

# WORN WITH PRIDE

Textiles, Kimono, and Propaganda in Japan, 1925-1945

Talk by  
Dr Jacqueline M. Atkins

**Date:** 14 May 2015, from 6:30pm

**Venue:** The Swedenborg Society

**20-21 Bloomsbury Way (Entrance on Barter St), London WC1A 2TH**

Japan has a rich tradition of textile production, crafting remarkable fabrics that reveal the country's considered aesthetics. From century to century, decorative fabrics have been used to adorn the body and bring pleasure not only to those who wore them, but also to all who saw them. One period of history, however, highlights a remarkable change in the visual design of Japanese textiles.

Commemorating the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, The Japan Foundation, London has invited **Dr Jacqueline M. Atkins**, to give a special illustrated talk on the capacity of cloth to communicate the persuasive power of Japanese propaganda of the time. While presenting various examples of the striking designs used in garments from children's kimonos to adult attire, Dr Atkins will map the evolution in pattern design during a time of conflict that produced a new look in fashion. She will also discuss the meanings behind the distinct graphics represented in the textiles, and why these unique visual references symbolised the social, cultural, and even political interest and patriotism of this period in Japanese history.

Dr Atkins will be introduced, and later joined for a discussion by **Anna Jackson**, Keeper of the Asian Department of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Dr Jacqueline M. Atkins, a textile historian, was Chief Curator and the Kate Fowler Merle-Smith Curator of Textiles for the Allentown Art Museum in Allentown, Pennsylvania. She has lectured extensively on Japanese modern textiles, Japanese and American quilts, and American folk art. Her publications include *Wearing Propaganda: Textiles on the Home Front in Japan, Britain, and the United States, 1931-1945*, based on her exhibition of the same name, and "Japanese Novelty Textiles" in *The Brittle Decade: Visualizing Japan in the 1930s*. She holds a Ph.D. from Bard Graduate Center for Decorative Arts, Design History, and Material Culture.

***This event is free to attend but booking is essential. To reserve a place, please e-mail your name and the title of the event you would like to attend to [event@jpf.org.uk](mailto:event@jpf.org.uk)***

This event is co-organised by IndigoRose Project, and supported by the International Chodiev Foundation



Image: Child's kimono, *Searchlights*, Tanaka Yoku Collection. Photo: Nakagawa Taadaki, Artec Studio

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