



## News Release

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MUSEUM OF QUILTS & TEXTILES PRESENTS RETROSPECTIVE OF BAY AREA ARTIST AND FASHION DESIGNER MARIAN CLAYDEN**

SAN JOSE, Calif., October 16, 2007 – The San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles will host a retrospective of the phenomenal career of master dyer, textile artist and fashion designer Marian Clayden from January 15 – March 23, 2008. *Marian Clayden: The Dyer's Hand* is a retrospective of Clayden's work from her textile art created for the wall through her later works designed for the body.

Trained as a painter, Clayden's first major commission came in 1968 when she was engaged to provide textiles for costumes and ritual and ceremonial cloth for the traveling production of the musical *Hair*. Known for her mastery of an Indonesian resist-dyeing technique called *plangi*, her art and designs can be found in the permanent collections of museums worldwide, including the Smithsonian, the Victoria and Albert in London, the Dromes in France, the Nagoya City Museum in Japan, the de Young in San Francisco, the Oakland Museum of California, and the Costume Collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

In the early 1980s Clayden began to focus her talents on fashion design. Her designs have been offered in the exclusive couture sections of Saks Fifth Avenue, Neiman Marcus and Bergdorf Goodman. Her eveningwear is worn by some of the most fascinating and accomplished women of our time, including Kirstie Alley, Bridget Fonda, Patti LaBelle, Lisa-Marie Presley, Edna O'Brien, Phylicia Rashad, Meryl Streep, Elizabeth Taylor, Sigourney Weaver, and Catherine Zeta-Jones.

"It's fascinating to view her career as it evolved from art for the wall to art for the body. Her earlier wall pieces are striking in their exuberance and passion and her clothing retains these qualities but is more subdued and ultimately wearable," said Curator Deborah Corsini.

Her garments are distinguished by the many studio techniques used to add color and texture to the fabric and by the delicate details and high-quality craftsmanship that go into each item. Ancient methods combine with modern dyes and paints to beautify the surface of her fabrics; special beads and trims are painstakingly attached for the final elegant touch.

"While her designs have a 1930s art deco sensibility, they are timeless and exude an elegant, luxurious feeling. Her masterful innovation in dyeing techniques, subtle colorations and sophisticated pattern design makes her work rich in texture and classic in style – truly works of art for the body," added Corsini.

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The San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles is the first museum of its kind in the United States and in 2005 became one of the top 10 attractions in San Jose. Museum and Museum Store hours are: 10:00am-5:00pm Tuesday through Sunday; closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission is \$6.50 general; \$5 students and seniors; and free to museum members and children under 13. Admission is free on the first Friday of each month. The San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles is located at 520 South First Street in downtown San Jose. For more information, call 408-971-0323 or visit [www.sjqquiltmuseum.org](http://www.sjqquiltmuseum.org).

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Editor's Note: For available images go to [http://www.sjqquiltmuseum.org/primg\\_clayden](http://www.sjqquiltmuseum.org/primg_clayden)

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