



San Jose Museum of  
**Quilts &  
Textiles**

## News Release

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **INDONESIAN INFLUENCES AT THE SAN JOSE MUSEUM OF QUILTS & TEXTILES**

SAN JOSE, Calif., May 15, 2008 – An exhibition of exotic sculptural costumes by performance artist Sha Sha Higby opens June 17, 2008 at the Museum of Quilts & Textiles. *In Javanese Moonlight: Sha Sha Higby* features three of the monumental sculptural forms that Higby wears in performance. Higby approaches dance through the medium of sculpture. She creates intricate costumes of materials such as wood, buffalo hide, batik fabric, silk, paper and gold leaf and animates them with subtlety and grace in performances of her own contemplative form of dance.

Higby's contemporary mixed-media fiber sculptures are juxtaposed with rare royal Indonesian batiks from the private collection of Noeleke Glenn Klavert. In this way visitors are provided an introduction to the many cultures whose symbols have shaped the iconic designs found in Indonesian batiks and whose artistic and spiritual practices transformed Higby's approach to modern dance. *In Javanese Moonlight* will showcase batiks whose design influences can be traced to India, China, Japan, the Middle East and Holland.

"This exhibit situates Higby's work within the context of Indonesian batik traditions," said Museum Curator Deborah Corsini. "Like batik artists, whose work is deliberate and slow—not infrequently taking months or even years to produce one stunning length of cloth—Higby mines the spiritual meaning in the physical discipline required to devote up to two years developing a complex sculptural form. As stationary art objects and as moving sculpture in her performances, these forms are an invitation to a meditative space, where time slows down and we find ourselves quietly contemplating life's mysteries."

Two programs will be offered in conjunction with the exhibition. Higby will present a lecture, *Sha Sha Higby in Transition*, on Saturday, August 23, 2-3:30pm. Tickets are \$15 and available online at [http://sjquiltmuseum.org/calendar\\_august.html](http://sjquiltmuseum.org/calendar_august.html) or by calling 408.971.0323 x14.

Sunday, August 24 Higby brings one of her popular performances to San Jose for the first time with a showing of her new production, *In a Cloud of Glass*. Bringing together sculptural costume, dance, and puppetry, *In a Cloud of Glass* explores the atmospheric world within the magical borders between death and life, and reflects Higby's recent travels to Myanmar and Thailand. The evening performance opens with the San Francisco Indonesian Dance Company *Harsanari* presenting traditional Indonesian dance. The performance includes a processional gamelan and accompaniment to Higby's performance by the award-winning Balinese orchestra *Gamelan Anak Swarasanti*. *In a Cloud of Glass* will be performed on Sunday, August 24 at 6pm next door to the Museum at 510 South First Street in downtown San Jose. Tickets are on sale now at [http://sjquiltmuseum.org/calendar\\_august.html](http://sjquiltmuseum.org/calendar_august.html) or by phone at 408.971.0323 x21. Tickets are: \$20 in advance with a \$5 rebate at the door for members with membership card; \$10 children; \$25 at the door (if available).

*In Javanese Moonlight* is co-presented by the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in San Francisco, Indoarts and Harsanari, the San Francisco Indonesian Dance Company.

San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles is the first museum of its kind in the United States, and in 2005 was named 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.sjquiltmuseum.org](http://www.sjquiltmuseum.org).

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Editor's Note: See available images at [www.sjquiltmuseum.org/primg\\_SSH](http://www.sjquiltmuseum.org/primg_SSH)