



Palo Alto  
**ARTCenter**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(Images available on request. Go to: [www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter) to view exhibition images.)

**The Palo Alto Art Center Presents...**

**"Kimono and Nature"**

**~ A Demonstration and Lecture Featuring Renowned Kimono Stylist, Nobuaki Tomita ~  
At the Palo Alto Art Center, October 25, 2008**

**Exhibition of "Kimono and Nature"**

**Palo Alto City Hall, October 28 - November 14, 2008**

**PALO ALTO, CA** – World-renowned Japanese kimono designer, Nobuaki Tomita, will present "*Kimono and Nature*," an informative and entertaining lecture and demonstration showcasing the art of Japanese kimono on October 25, 2008, at both 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., at the Palo Alto Art Center (PAAC). Following the lectures and demonstrations, the four kimono Tomita has specially created will be exhibited at Palo Alto City Hall from October 28 – November 14, 2008. The lectures and demonstrations are free and open to the public. Seating is limited; please call for reservations at 650-329-2366.

The City of Palo Alto's environmental activism was a key source of inspiration for Tomita's kimono artwork. Tomita chose to look for a similar town in Japan, committed to its ecological roots, and discovered Toyooka. Located approximately 100 kilometers from Kobe City and two hours from Kyoto, Toyooka is a symbol of a society in which nature and people coexist. Through a dedication to remove pesticides and artificial fertilizers from the rice fields, Toyooka has restored the only habitat in Japan for the Oriental White Stork, Japan's national symbol that was driven to extinction in the 1980's. Working with the finest artisans in Kyoto, Japan, Tomita has created a spiritual and meaningful kimono based on the motif of the Oriental White Stork and the four changing seasons. In addition, Tomita has incorporated the natural beauty of Palo Alto by producing a natural dye derived from the bark of *el Palo Alto* for the obi, the uppermost sash on the kimono. According to Tomita, "I am thrilled to have an opportunity to create a kimono set for the City of Palo Alto and to bring the traditions of Japanese culture together with Palo Alto's timely and timeless environmental sensibility."

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***About Kimono:*** (*Kimono is both singular and plural*)

The kimono is an international symbol of Japan, offering a window into Japan's traditions and aesthetic and cultural sensibilities. A kimono is made from a single, 12-meter bolt of fabric called a *tan*. Some are formal, others more casual. The obi, worn with all kimono, is the sash that functions to keep the robe in place and as a decoration.

***About Nobuaki Tomita:***

Born in 1963 in Kyoto, Japan, Nobuaki Tomita is considered one of the most influential and creative kimono designer and producers. Choosing not to take a formal kimono-making apprenticeship, Tomita has gone beyond the traditional method and created innovative as well as traditional designs. At the age of 27, he founded his own kimono design and styling company, "Kyokaori," and has worked on numerous NHK Television programs, drama series and Japanese films as a costume coordinator and supervisor. Tomita presents kimono shows and gives lectures on Japanese textiles and fashion to help promote and preserve the tradition of kimono.

*Kimono and Nature* is presented by the Palo Alto Art Center, Kimura Gallery, and Nippon Travel Express.

***About the Palo Alto Art Center***

The Palo Alto Art Center (founded 1971) is a nationally acclaimed, regional visual art center whose exhibition program focuses on documenting – and celebrating – the art and artists of the San Francisco Bay Area. The Center's mission is to foster creative process and thought by forging a greater appreciation and understanding of the visual arts through exhibitions, studio experiences and related educational programs. The Palo Alto Art Center, Division of Arts and Sciences, City of Palo Alto, is funded in part by support from the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation and the Arts Council Silicon Valley, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara and the California Arts Council. The Center is open to the public without charge from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday; and 7-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday. The Center is located at 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303. For further information: Phone: 650-329-2366 / E-mail: [artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org) / Web site: [www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter)

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