



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 27, 2016

Durango Arts Center

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## The Durango Arts Center Presents An Installation of Contemporary Indigo Textiles by Award-Winning Artist, Rowland Ricketts

*work time*

August 12-September 18, 2016

In the Barbara Conrad Gallery of the Durango Arts Center

Opening Reception: Friday, August 12 from 5-7pm

Free Artist Talk: Saturday, August 13 from 5:30-7:30pm



(Durango, CO)—The Durango Arts Center (DAC) presents *work time*, a solo installation of contemporary indigo textiles created by internationally renowned artist Rowland Ricketts, a textile designer and indigo farmer based in Bloomington, IN. The installation, previously exhibited at the Portland Museum of Contemporary Craft in Portland, OR, will layer from the ceiling and encompass the entirety of the Barbara Conrad Gallery. DAC will host an opening reception for the exhibit on Friday, August 12 from 5 to 7pm and a free artist talk with Ricketts on Saturday, August 13 from 5:30-7:30pm in the gallery.

DAC PRESS RELEASE:

The Durango Arts Center Presents An Installation of Contemporary Indigo Textiles by Award-Winning Artist, Rowland Ricketts

Best known for his bold, graphic designs, Ricketts utilizes natural indigo dyes and centuries-old processes to create dynamic textiles unlike any other fiber artist of his generation. From his indigo farm Ricketts maintains a methodical natural cultivation and dyeing practice; planting, harvesting and drying the indigo entirely by hand. The resulting pieces are not only one-of-a-kind, but also entirely reflective of the time and effort of the historical Japanese art form.

For his exhibit at DAC, *work time*, Ricketts will design a large-scale installation of new works that will layer throughout the floor and ceiling of the Barbara Conrad Gallery, transforming the exhibition space into a unique textile experience. A free lecture on August 13 in the Barbara Conrad Gallery will provide an overview of Rickett's indigo cultivation processes and his artistic process, and the public is highly encouraged to attend. This exhibit is made possible with generous support from Oxford Asset Management and New Face Productions, a volunteer committee dedicated to raising funds for contemporary innovative programming at DAC.

### **ABOUT ROWLAND RICKETTS**

Trained in indigo farming and dyeing in Japan, Rowland Ricketts received his MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art in 2005 and is currently an Assistant Professor in Textiles at Indiana University's Henry Radford Hope School of Fine Art. His work has been exhibited at the Textile Museum (Washington, DC), Cavin-Morris Gallery (New York), and Douglas Dawson Gallery (Chicago) and has been published in *Textiles Now*, *FiberArts*, *Selvedge*, *Surface Design Journal*, and *Hand/Eye Magazine*. In 2012, Ricketts was awarded a prestigious \$50,000 Friends Fellow Award from United States Artists, signifying recognition as one of America's most accomplished and innovative artists. A collection of recent press coverage on Ricketts is available on DAC's website at [www.durangoarts.org/work-time](http://www.durangoarts.org/work-time).

An excerpt from Rowland Ricketts' artist statement:

"My own experiences with indigo – first as an apprentice in Japan followed by years of working with and learning from this dye – have made me aware of a connection that leads not just from my teachers to me, but one that reaches back to my teacher's teachers and the people they learned from, back into a past in which the processes I use were developed through the accumulated experiences of all who have ever worked with this unique dye."

"I find great value in this connection indigo provides to a greater human tradition. Of equal value to me is the time and energy I invest in the farming, processing, and fermenting of this dye. As a dyer I strive to transfigure all the energy of human endeavor expended on this dye so that its vitality lends its life to and lives on in the dyed cloth."

## **FEATURED WORKSHOP**

In conjunction with this exhibit, DAC will host two adult workshops with Chicago-based textile artist, Akemi Nakano Cohn. On August 21 from 10am-4pm, Cohn will lead “Shibori with Indigo Dyeing,” in which students will explore various Shibori resist and indigo dyeing techniques. The workshop will be held at Fort Lewis College’s Department of Art & Design at 1000 Rim Drive. On August 22 & 23 from 10am-1pm, Cohn will lead “Beyond the Kimono: Katazome,” which is the textile resist-dye process. This workshop will be held in the Durango Arts Center’s Education Studio at 802 E 2nd Avenue.

## **ABOUT WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR, AKEMI NAKANO COHN**

Born in Yokohama, Japan, Akemi Nakano Cohn studied traditional Japanese dyeing techniques for ten years under master artist, Haru Izumi. She emigrated to the United States in 1986 and received an MFA in fiber art at Cranbrook Academy of Art. Cohn has pursued an extensive series of international exhibitions and commissions, and has been an Artist-in-Residence at Anderson Ranch Art Center and the Ragdale Foundation.

## **ABOUT DAC**

The Durango Arts Center (DAC) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that provides Durango and surrounding communities opportunities to create, to promote, and to participate in diverse arts experiences. From its 14,000 square foot historic facility in downtown Durango, DAC presents year-round programming in the form of dynamic exhibits of contemporary and traditional mediums; an array of art classes and workshops for ages 5+; a live theatre season of family and dramatic productions; services and support to regional artists; and numerous cultural events, including the annual Durango Autumn Arts Festival each September. Over the years, DAC has built its reputation as a local arts industry leader and has been working diligently to ensure that the arts continue to thrive in the Four Corners region and beyond.

**Durango Arts Center | 802 E. 2nd Ave, Durango, CO 81301 | 970.259.2606**

## **CONNECT WITH DAC**

**Website:** <http://durangoarts.org>

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/durangoart>

**Instagram:** <http://instagram.com/durangoarts>

**Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/durangoart>

**Vimeo:** <http://vimeo.com/durangoart>

**Youtube:** <https://www.youtube.com/user/durangoarts>

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# work time

## ROWLAND RICKETTS

Contemporary textiles created with natural dyes and historical processes.

**AUGUST 12 – SEPTEMBER 18**

Opening Reception: August 12, 5–7pm | Artist Lecture: August 13, 5:30–7:30pm

## DURANGO ARTS CENTER

Best known for his bold, graphic designs, Rowland Ricketts utilizes natural indigo dyes and centuries-old processes to create dynamic textiles unlike any other fiber artist of his generation. From his Bloomington, IN indigo farm, Ricketts maintains a methodical natural cultivation and dyeing practice; planting, harvesting and drying the indigo entirely by hand. At DAC, Ricketts will design a large-scale installation of new works that will layer throughout the floor and ceiling of the Barbara Conrad Gallery.

### INDIGO WORKSHOPS WITH VISITING ARTIST AKEMI NAKANO COHN

**Shibori with Indigo Dyeing | August 21, 10am-4pm | \$175 Members / \$200**

**Beyond the Kimono : Katazome | August 22 & 23, 10am-1pm | \$175 Members / \$200**

For more information about workshops and to register online visit, [durangoarts.org/visual-adult](http://durangoarts.org/visual-adult).



802 E. 2nd Ave, Durango, CO | 970.259.2606 | [Durangoarts.org](http://Durangoarts.org)



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