



EMBASSY OF JAPAN, WASHINGTON DC  
**JAPAN**  
INFORMATION & CULTURE CENTER

## **PRESS RELEASE || FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **“Indigo Threads / 藍・つむぐ: Weaving Japanese Craftsmanship & American Heritage,” Named Headliner Exhibition of the 2019 National Cherry Blossom Festival**

WASHINGTON, DC (MARCH 6, 2019) – The **Japan Information & Culture Center (JICC), Embassy of Japan, DC**, is proud to present “Indigo Threads / 藍・つむぐ: Weaving Japanese Craftsmanship & American Heritage,” an exhibition exploring the rich history of indigo dyed fabric and garments in Japan, including the modern hype on Japanese denim and jeans. The exhibition opens Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> and runs through Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Textiles have long been a catalyst for international trade and cultural exchange between countries. Denim, in particular, is known to beloved aesthetic and choice of fashion around the world. While the overall production and styles of indigo-dyed fabrics have changed with the introduction of modern concepts, materials, & processes, the convergence of denim and Japanese craftsmanship has contributed to resurrect the vintage style American blue jean in extraordinary ways.

The classic American icon was revived into a practice that discovered newfound roots in Japanese cultural heritage and tradition. This exhibition invites visitors to explore the question, “Why Japan?” through the eyes of the historian, manufacturer, marketer, consumer, and more.

The three month exhibition will also include a series of lectures, films, and workshops, held in collaboration with Kurashiki City and The Textile Museum. Featured speakers include W. David Marx, author of *Ametora*, Thomas Goehner, curator at The Textile Museum, Rowland Ricketts, textile artist & scholar, and Ann Marie Moeller, Japanese textile scholar, among several others. More details will be available on the JICC website at <https://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jicc/>.

“Indigo Threads” is the headliner exhibition of the 2019 National Cherry Blossom Festival, which celebrates the strong and enduring friendship between Japan and the United States, and the gift of 3,000 cherry trees given by Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo to the City of Washington, DC in 1912.

**Pictures available upon request.**

*This exhibition and series is presented by the Japan Information & Culture Center, Embassy of Japan, organized with Kurashiki City, in collaboration with The Textile Museum and Gordon Hefner of Blue in Green Soho. This exhibition and series is generously sponsored by ANA, with support from An Marie Moeller, Aya Yano, and Kaihara Denim.*



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## LECTURE SERIES

Friday, March 29, 2019 @ 6:30 PM || *The History of Jeans in Japan: Black Markets, Red-Line Selvage, and the Blue of Victory* with W. David Marx, author of "Ametora"

Wednesday, April 10, 2019 @ 6:30 PM || Screening of "Weaving Shibusa" with discussion with representatives from Japanese Jeans Brands

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 @ 6:30 PM || *Process & Meaning: Traditional Indigo in the Work of Rowland Ricketts*, with Rowland Ricketts, textile artist & scholar

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 @ 6:30 PM || *Shades of Indigo: The Kimono - Blue Jeans Connection* with Ann Marie Moeller, Japanese textile scholar & independent curator

## FILM SERIES

Presented with Japan Commerce Association of Washington DC, Inc.

Wednesday, March 27, 2019 @ 6:30 PM || Kagemusha, 影武者

Wednesday, April 8, 2019 @ 6:30 PM || Blue Alchemy: Stories of Indigo

Wednesday, April 17, 2019 @ 6:30 PM || The Ballad of Narayama, 檜山節考

Wednesday, May 22, 2019 @ 6:30 PM || Keep Your Chin Up, 上を向いて歩こう

Wednesday, June 19, 2019 @ 6:30 PM || A Story of Yonosuke, 横道世之介

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The Japan Information & Culture Center (JICC), Embassy of Japan in Washington, DC is the region's #1 authoritative resource for Japan-related information and culture, a gift sponsored by the people of Japan since 1981. As part of the Embassy of Japan's public outreach program, the JICC is deeply committed to enriching the relationship between the people of Japan and the United States through an active, vibrant cultural and informational exchange. For more information, please visit <http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jicc>.

The **National Cherry Blossom Festival** is the nation's greatest springtime celebration. The 2019 Festival includes four weeks of events featuring diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. Visit [nationalcherryblossomfestival.org](http://nationalcherryblossomfestival.org) or call 877.44.BLOOM for more information, or check out Facebook (@CherryBlossom Festival), Twitter (@CherryBlossFest), and Instagram (@CherryBlossFest).

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