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Sally Gehl, Owner

KIMONO:
Unfolding Cultural Ideals
featuring
Artist Fumino Hora

Opening Reception
Friday, September 7, 2007
6 - 9 p.m.

Show runs through Saturday, October 6, 2007

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 11 - 5
Saturday 10 - 3
412.563.3003



*Folded silk garments
Hide shadows of family
Ghosts mourn beauty lost*

KIMONO:
Unfolding Cultural Ideals

FUMINA

Opening:
Friday, September 7
6 - 9 PM

Show runs through
October 8

Hours:
Mon - Fri 11 - 5
Saturday 10 - 3

HORA

KIMONO:
Unfolding Cultural Ideals



On the occasion of her birth Fumino Hora, like other Japanese girls, was given a set of Hina dolls to commemorate the event. These dolls weren't for play, but were show dolls that embodied all the ideals her parents held for her as a Japanese woman. The dolls represented royalty, soldiers, court ladies and musicians. Years later, Fumino used these dolls as an inspiration for her extraordinary constructions of traditional Japanese garments embellished with family album photos transferred onto metal. In her stunning pieces, in which the "fabric" is metal mesh and not fabric at all, Fumino explores the tension between tradition and modernity, reality and illusion, cultural boundaries and personal freedom, family honor and individual identity. In speaking of her work, the artist describes a "painful contradiction": although cultural changes have released women from living within strict boundaries, "so many beautiful things are lost."

Born and raised in Tokyo, Fumino studied art in Australia and Hong Kong. Fumino is new to Pittsburgh. Her exquisite "Kimonos" were shipped by sea to the U.S. in huge crates from Hong Kong, and we Pittsburghers are privileged to have them here.