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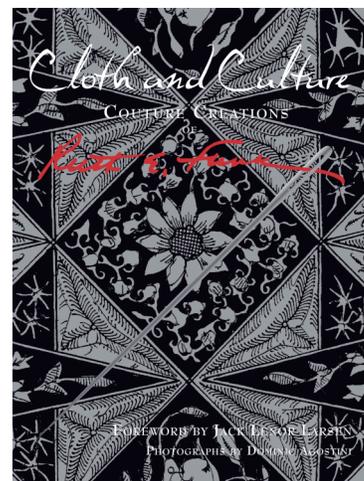
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New Book—*Cloth and Culture: Couture Creations of Ruth E. Funk*—
mesmerizes readers with brilliant handcrafted garments and fiber art
jewelry made from multicultural and recycled textiles

“Forget octogenarian; think paragon. Ruth Funk, creator and collector, stitches with one hand while shaking the world with the other.” —Jack Lenor Larsen, textile designer

Dallas—*Cloth and Culture: Couture Creations of Ruth E. Funk* (Panache Partners, August 2009), published by Brian Carabet and John Shand, is the monograph of artist-designer Ruth E. Funk with scholarly foreword by world-renowned textile designer Jack Lenor Larsen. In this tribute to textile arts, Ruth Funk takes readers on a passionate journey presenting couture creations she has made over the last 25 years. These Art-to-Wear designs are depicted in more than 400 full-color images captured by photographer Dominic Agostini. The impressive 280-page volume features highly detailed jackets, evening coats and jewelry that Ruth handcrafted from rare and recycled ethnic textiles that she collected through her extensive world travels and acquired from antique shops, interior designers and friends. With a mantra of saving handmade textiles from around the globe, Ruth believes that “every garment tells a story.” Authentic African mud cloth, colorful Malaysian batiks, Chinese silks, Central American folk-art molas, exquisite Parisian lace, vintage Scalamandré silk, Fortuny prints and resist-dyed Ikat fabric are just some of the textiles incorporated into Ruth’s wearable art designs.



Ruth is the ultimate “creator of cloth.” An adept seamstress, she intuitively combines imported handwoven pieces, luxury silks and damasks, appliqués, embroidery, braids and ribbons and sews them into modern, eclectic art compositions. One small piece of cloth can become aesthetic inspiration and the garment is born from the treasured piece to envelop a unified visual theme, a mood, a tone. “Multicultural textiles enthrall me,” says Ruth. She artfully embellishes each hand-sewn work of art with charms, shells, foreign coins and collected artifacts. Her beautiful garments exhibit a hybrid quality of patchwork design, a refined assemblage, with age-old techniques in the mix. Colorful, abstract and uninhibited, Ruth’s fiber art designs are original and exude dramatic flair reminiscent of historic theatrical costume, with a nod to personal adornment.

Designs like the Straight-Line Long Coat, kimono-inspired Square-Cut Jacket, Classic Vest and free-flowing Othello Coat require a few simple seams and hand-sewn finishes. Through her new book, ***Cloth and Culture***, featuring more than a hundred pieces, Ruth pays homage to textiles in a way that no other American designer has done. Raising the consciousness of the value of textiles as an art form is Ruth’s motivating mission in life. Expressing creativity using an array of textiles is her gift. “My vision is to elevate textiles as an art form to be enjoyed and appreciated for generations to come,” says Ruth. Ruth’s exciting design work has influenced a renaissance in the Art-to-Wear movement and rekindled an appreciation for textiles from around the world.

As an accomplished artist-designer, teacher, guest lecturer, collector, textile enthusiast, preservationist and visionary, Ruth is unstoppable. Committed to elevating textile arts to new heights through her wearable art, she has also put her heart into making fiber art jewelry and accessories. She gained notoriety in the 1960s as a jewelry artist in New York working with enamel on silver and later reapplied her jewelry design skills to

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create unique sculptural neckpieces and ornamented purses using handwoven textiles, pin-loom techniques, metallic threads and silk cording with accents of antique beads, fiber and leather, gemstones, lace, bells and feathers. She has designed many unique jewelry pieces to coordinate with her signature jackets and coats. Ruth's custom expressions of wearable art and fiber art designs are indeed a tribute to textiles, demonstrating her reverence for the cloth-making craft and the diverse, international cultures from which they are derived.

Ruth Funk's legacy is creating visually engaging wearable art—garments and handmade jewelry—out of recycled textiles made from time-honored ancestral techniques that have been underappreciated. Her remarkable body of work featured in ***Cloth and Culture*** will be periodically showcased for future generations in the **Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts on the Florida Institute of Technology** campus in Melbourne, Florida. The center is scheduled to open in August 2009. Through generous philanthropic efforts she has made great strides in educating and inspiring students, designers, artists and the public about the intrinsic value of textiles and fiber arts. Her donation of original wearable art will be housed in FIT's new space, which supports Ruth's ongoing commitment to increasing awareness of the textile arts and its enriching value to society as a whole. "It is my dream come true to have a center for world textile education and special exhibitions," says Ruth. For more information about the center, please visit Textiles.FIT.edu.

Appealing to design aficionados, fashion designers, textile enthusiasts, art students, seamstresses, quilters, crafters and anyone looking for creative inspiration and enrichment, Ruth E. Funk's extraordinary garments and fiber art designs presented in ***Cloth and Culture*** will engage readers with more than 400 brilliant images by Dominic Agostini, delightfully layered with the artist's enlightening insights, introduced by Jack Lenor Larsen's illuminating foreword. Visit LongHouse.org for more information about Mr. Larsen.

Monograph Details:

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Foreword by Jack Lenor Larsen

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Editor: Anita M. Kasmar

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Also available from Panache Partners:

Geoffrey Bradfield: Ex Arte (ISBN 1-933415-78-9)

Visions of Design (ISBN 1-933415-67-3)

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For more information or to request an additional review copy, please contact Anita Kasmar at 469.246.6060 or akasmar@panache.com. Images of Ruth E. Funk's garment and jewelry design are available upon request. **Ruth Funk is available for book signings, media interviews, guest appearances, museum/gallery exhibitions, lectures and exclusive fashion shows.**