

For Immediate Release

Mingei International Museum Unveils Six New Exhibitions

February 4, 2025, SAN DIEGO, CA — Soaring on the tailwind of their most recent exhibition, *Blue Gold: The Art and Science of Indigo*, which is still on view through March 16, Mingei International Museum is preparing to set the bar high once again with a full slate of spring exhibitions.

“This spring and through 2025, visitors at Mingei will be able to explore a broad range of objects and stories,” said Jessica Hanson York, Executive Director and CEO. “Made in community, and guided by the care and scholarship of our curatorial team, we proudly introduce a lineup of exhibitions that honors our mission to celebrate and dignify cultural diversity through craft and design.”

Fashioning an Icon: Virgin of Guadalupe Imagery in Textile Design

April 5, 2025 - September 7, 2025 | Curator: Ariana Torres

This exhibition celebrates the Virgin of Guadalupe’s representation on clothing and adornment. Objects range from traditional garments created by over 70 artists from Mexico to a selection of local artistic interpretations of *la Virgen*. Inspired by her long history of depiction on textiles, these works explore the Virgin of Guadalupe’s endurance as an iconic cultural symbol fashioned through creative expression.

The core collection of textile works presented at Mingei International Museum is drawn from the *Rosas y Revelaciones* Project, a group of clothing and accessories commissioned by project founder, Linda Hanna, based in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Student Craft 2025: Icon

April 5, 2025 - September 7, 2025 | Curator: Juried Exhibition

Student Craft is a biennial exhibition featuring the work of local high school art students. Drawing inspiration from *Fashioning an Icon*, students are invited to create work exploring the visual themes of what makes a figure an icon. Students will select a personally meaningful iconic figure to explore through a variety of craft forms including but not limited to clay, metal, jewelry, furniture design, glass, textiles, weaving, basketry, fashion design, and craft-based mixed media.

Historic Footprints: Native American Ledger Drawings from Fort Marion

April 12, 2025 – August 17, 2025 | Curators: Guest Co-Curator Ross Frank, Dr. Emily G. Hanna

Organized collaboratively with faculty and students from the University of California San Diego, members of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, and the Kiowa Tribe, this exhibition explores hand-drawn sketches on ledger paper made by Cheyenne, Kiowa, Arapaho, Comanche, and Caddo tribal members that were taken as hostages and incarcerated without trial in 1875 in St. Augustine, Florida. Including more than 20 works from archival ledger books and 13 works by living Indigenous artists, these drawings bear witness to history and continue to inspire new generations.

[Across the Spooniverse](#)

April 12, 2025 - August 17, 2025 | Curator: Dr. Emily G. Hanna

This exhibition presents over 100 spoons from across the globe (including Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas), exploring traditions of home, family, community, and culture that are associated with their use. Crafted from a variety of materials such as gourds, shells, animal horns, clay, wood, metals, and plastics, spoons are utilitarian objects that are also works of art, design, and craft. Each object is a reflection of a specific cultural context—from intimate traditions of home and family to community and celebratory preparations of food and drink, and the spiritual gestures of giving thanks for sustenance.

[Layered Narratives: Quilted Stories of Gender & Race at the 1876 Centennial](#)

May 17, 2025 – November 16, 2025 | Curator: Olivia Joseph, Quilt Research Fellow

Examining a major historic event, the United States' 1876 Centennial, this exhibition looks at quilts from the era to discuss representation, socio-politics, absent voices, and unheard stories. Packed with various symbolisms and meanings, the Centennial quilts featured in *Layered Narratives* give insight into the contributions and voices of Black women and the Black community at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. This exhibition expands the historical lens, revealing overlooked and underrecognized stories that exist in parallel with the Centennial quilts.

Mingei's Quilt Research Fellow position is made possible through generous support from the Terra Foundation.

[Tuck and Roll: The Art of Armadillos](#)

May 24, 2025 - January 11, 2026 | Curator: Guusje Sanders

Located on Mingei's free Entry Level, *Tuck and Roll* showcases over 80 armadillo figures from Mingei's permanent collection! Featuring works made by artisans across the Americas, this playful installation emphasizes the joy of making things by hand and how these extraordinary creatures have delighted people's imagination.

[Download Media Images Here](#)

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ABOUT MINGEI INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM

Mingei International Museum, located in San Diego's Balboa Park Cultural District, celebrates human creativity through multicultural works of folk art, craft, and design. Inspired by the Japanese *mingei* (art of the people) movement, Mingei cares deeply about design functionality, handmade craft, and bringing out the creativity that lives in all of us. In addition to rotating gallery exhibitions and event programming, Mingei's gift shop, theater, education center, restaurant, and café are backdrops for finding inspiration and connecting with the community. As the presenter of San Diego Design Week and a partner to over 50 local artists and art and cultural organizations, Mingei puts celebrating creativity at the core of its mission through workshops, film festivals, lectures, and more. Mingei is a nonprofit institution funded by admission, individuals, and institutional support.

Media Contact

Nat Biendara Wilson for Mingei International Museum

nbiendara@mingei.org