

Corinne Thépaut-Cabasset  
ICOM Costume Chair,  
15<sup>th</sup> October 2020,

Dear ICOM Costume Friends and Members,

I received news from a new and interesting Textile Centre in North America, Washington DC (USA).

The Cotsen Textile Traces Study Collection represents a lifetime of collecting by business leader and philanthropist Lloyd Cotsen (1929-2017). Comprised of nearly 4,000 small textiles, fragments and garments from all over the world, it offers insights into human creativity from antiquity to the present.

The collection was donated to the George Washington University in 2018, and it is now housed in the new Cotsen Textile Traces Study Center at the George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum.

Although George Washington University and The Textile Museum in Washington are operating virtually this semester, there has been lots of activity, including the roll out of the new Cotsen Textile Traces Study Center.

The entire Cotsen Textile Traces Study [Collection is now online](#), accessible through an emerging landing page, [cotsentextiles.gwu.edu](https://cotsentextiles.gwu.edu), and their Instagram account, [@CotsenTextiles](#), is generating conversation about artworks in the collection.

On October 21-22, the center will be testing out their first program: a virtual global roundtable that will bring together scholars, museum professionals, and artists from five continents for panels inspired by artworks in the Cotsen Textile Traces Study Collection.

We are invited to join for any or all of the roundtable sessions.

The Cotsen Textile Traces Global Roundtable commemorates the new study center and offers a glimpse of the richness of the Cotsen Textile Traces Study Collection. Beginning with an introduction to Mr. Cotsen's collecting and an overview of the collection and study center, the roundtable will feature five one-hour panels highlighting textiles from five continents.

This inaugural roundtable seeks to encourage textile research, facilitate critical discussion, support cultural diversity and preserve cultural heritage by creating direct connections between collection objects and current research and art-making, while engaging with scholars, curators, conservators, and artists.

Link to the program details and registration:

<https://museum.gwu.edu/cotsen-textile-traces-global-roundtable>

*Collections and Connections Across Five Continents: An introduction to the Cotsen Textile Traces Study Collection*

Organized by the Cotsen Textile Traces Study Center at the George Washington University Museum and the Textile Museum, Washington D.C. (USA)

October 21, 2020, 10 am-1 pm (EDT)-October 22, 2020, 1 pm-4 pm (EDT) ONLINE



Patchwork trade cloth robe (detail), Indonesia, 18th century. Cotsen Textile Traces Study Collection T-2852.

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Since the beginning of October, the committee has received an impressive number of announcements about exhibitions opening during the pandemic. This newsletter will continue throughout the year to share these with you as much as possible, with regular updates also posted on the costume website. Please check the news page on: [www.costume.mini.icom.museum](http://www.costume.mini.icom.museum).

In short here is the list for the coming announcements about exhibitions:

- [Kleren maken de vrouw](#) (Zuiderzeemuseum, Enkhuizen (NL))
- [MASCULINITIES](#) (Fashion and Lacemuseum, Brussels (BE))
- [Kies voor Kleur!](#) (Kunstmuseum, Den Haag (NL))
- [DRESS.CODE.](#) (Modemuseum Hasselt, BE)
- [the new normal: reflections in fashion now](#) (OSCAM, Amsterdam (NL)) The latter is an exhibition by Modemuze in collaboration with OSCAM, and is the first fashion exhibition in the NL (maybe even in Europe) to reflect on the Covid-19 pandemic from a fashion angle.

Take good care of yourself and keep in touch.

Kindly yours,

Corinne Thépaut-Cabasset

Chair of the international Committee ICOM for museums and collections of Costume

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