



MUSEUM
DER KULTUREN BASEL

21.10.2016 – 26.3.2017

STRIKING PATTERNS

Global Traces in Local Ikat Fashion



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In eastern Indonesia and Timor-Leste people wear hand-woven, decorative ikat cloths as a mark of prestige and to flaunt their taste for fashion at festive events. Ikat is a form of art in which the yarn is tied and dyed – the Indonesian term “ikat” means “to tie” – before weaving. Woven into the patterns are myths, rituals, recent historical events, imported motifs as well as new fashion trends. Ever since they began producing ikat, weavers have incorporated foreign influences. Relying on old pieces from the museum’s exceptional collections as well as new cloths, the exhibition “striking patterns. Global Traces in Local Ikat Fashion” illuminates the development of the tradition, illustrating how these highly skilled weavers have already long been part of the process of globalization.

Become enthralled by beautiful shoulder cloths, hip wraps and sarongs! The exhibition unfolds a sea of flowers. In particular, the Indian eight-pointed flower features in almost endless variations, accompanied by a rain of European roses. Animals populate the cloths, just as tourists do. We also find Catholic motifs in the shape of crucifixes and angels, while synthetic yarns and bright colours lend some of the exhibits a radiant touch of modern fashion.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue published in two languages by Hatje Cantz Verlag. ISBN 978-3-7757-4187-3 (English) / ISBN 978-3-7757-4186-6 (German)

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Opening hours Tue–Sun 10.00–17.00
First Wednesday of the month 10.00–20.00

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