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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Weisman Art Museum presents
TAKO:
Japanese Kites Inspire Western Kitemakers

TAKO: Japanese Kites Inspire Western Kitemakers encourages viewers to look up into the Weisman Art Museum's dramatic exhibition spaces and consider art from a new perspective. An incredible collection of kites will be installed high off the museum's walls and will range in size from a few inches to 40 feet long. All of these kites are meant to fly and most have touched the air over two or three continents.

Bathed in the natural brightness from three open skylights at the Weisman, ***TAKO: Japanese Kites Inspire Western Kitemakers***, will present brilliant, sophisticated, and vibrant kites up close and still flying. The kite designs range from minimal patterns to elaborate and complex designs. **TAKO will be on display from June 19 through September 12 at the Weisman Art Museum.**

TAKO: Japanese Kites Inspire Western Kitemakers features prominent kite artists including Tal Streeter, Scott Skinner, Stuart Allen, and Robert Trepanier—along with a selection of postwar kites made by Japanese artists and Streeter's "Five Mile Long Flying Red Line," a 12-inch by 5-mile-long kite tail.

In 1969, Streeter turned away from his rapidly expanding career and left for Japan to study the art of kitemaking. Following his return to the United States two years later,

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he wrote the "The Art of the Japanese Kite," arguably the most influential book about kites ever published in English. His journey and subsequent account of Japanese kitemaking traditions, which date over 1,000 years, has become the definitive resource and inspiration for a generation of North American kitemaking artists.

Exhibition Sponsors

Tako: Japanese Kites Inspire Western Kitemakers is made possible through the generous support of The Drachen Foundation and The SOAR Foundation on behalf of Billy, Aly, and Charlie Weisman.

Additional support for the Weisman Art Museum is provided by the Boss Foundation; the Dorsey and Whitney Foundation; the General Mills Foundation; HGA, Inc.; the Art and Martha Kaemmer Fund of HRK Foundation; the R. C. Lilly Foundation; Lowry Hill Private Wealth Management; Target, Marshall Field's and Mervyn's with support from the Target Foundation; Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota; Xcel Energy Foundation; the Minnesota State Arts Board; the Colleagues of the Weisman Art Museum; and the University of Minnesota.

General Information

The Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota is a teaching museum that links the educational mission of the University and the cultural life of Minnesota in a dynamic and congenial place, for the discovery, understanding, and enjoyment of art in all its facets. Housed since 1993 in architect Frank Gehry's sculptural stainless steel and brick building, the museum's 20,000-piece collection is especially rich in 20th century American art by such artists as Georgia O'Keeffe and Marsden Hartley.

The Weisman presents an exciting schedule of temporary exhibitions, lectures, discussions, concerts, performances, and special events. The Weisman is located at 333 East River Road in Minneapolis. Museum hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; weekends, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Mondays. Public parking is available in the museum ramp at a rate of \$2.50 per hour or a flat rate of \$5.00 on Saturday and Sunday. THERE IS NO ADMISSION FEE TO THE WEISMAN.

For more information call 612-625-9494.

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TAKO: Japanese Kites Inspire Western Kitemakers

Weisman Art Museum

June 19-September 12, 2004

Related Programs

Family Day Opening

Sunday, June 20

Noon to 4:00 p.m.

FREE

Fun for Dad....and the whole family! Explore the kite exhibition and learn kite flying techniques and secrets from members of the Minnesota Kite Society. Make your own kite with Montreal artist Robert Trepanier and see a demonstration of Japanese kitemaking.

TAKO: Related Programs

Lecture

Light, Gravity, and Space

Tuesday, June 15

2:00 p.m.

FREE

Stuart Allen, a visual artist and curator working in photography, site-specific sculpture and kitemaking, talks about his work and the relevance of kites in contemporary sculpture. A reception on the Weisman Art Museum terrace will immediately follow the lecture.

Kite Building Workshop

Three Dimensional Tension Structures That (may) Fly

September 10 and 11, 2004

Friday, September 10, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Lecture at the Weisman Art Museum

Saturday, September 11, 10:00-4:00 p.m.

College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture

Workshop fee: \$15 for materials

To register: 612-625-9494.

Hands-on kite building workshop in the University of Minnesota College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture building courtyard

Instructor: Stuart Allen

