

## Media information

For immediate use

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# Kaffe Fassett – A Life in Colour

- Fashion and Textile Museum announces first major exhibition on international textile artist Kaffe Fassett's work in London since 1988
- 'Kaffe Fassett – A Life in Colour' showcases over five decades of work, from designs for Bill Gibb, knitwear for Missoni, printed patchwork fabrics, glorious quilts, and inspired needlepoint
- Exhibition dates **22 March – 29 June 2013**

'Kaffe Fassett – A Life in Colour' is a celebration of the work of one of the great practitioners of contemporary craft. This exhibition, the first in London since Kaffe Fassett's record-breaking show at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1988, features over 100 works within a dramatic installation designed by Sue Timney.

Exhibition highlights include extravagantly-coloured 9-foot-wide knitted shawls, coats and throws, patchwork fabrics shown in a glorious selection of quilts, as well as items especially created for this exhibit and not seen in public before. The design also features a 'feeling' wall that allows visitors to touch and better understand the textiles on display and their construction.

From his childhood in the creative community of Big Sur, California, to his career as a painter, and later as a knitwear and textile designer in London from the 1960s to the present day, Kaffe's ability to blend pattern, texture and colour has won him a dedicated following of enthusiasts.

Head of the Fashion and Textile Museum, Celia Joicey says

'Kaffe Fassett is one of the world's greatest living textile artists. This retrospective will celebrate Kaffe Fassett's work, and the incredible people and environments that have inspired him during the last fifty years.'

Curator of the Fashion and Textile Museum, Dennis Nothdruff says

'The exhibition will provide new insight into one of the most accomplished colourists of the late 20th and early 21st century. We hope to introduce Kaffe Fassett's work to a new audience and inspire future generations to explore colour, texture and form.'

Exhibition designer, Sue Timney says

'The exhibition will have a comprehensive drama to it. It will be displayed in a stylized, ordered framework that will hold the richly patterned and

colour-filled objects that have been created in Kaffe's long life and work, through his collaboration with Brandon Mably.'

The exhibition will also celebrate Kaffe Fassett's long-association with internationally-renowned handknitting company Rowan. A shop at the FTM will make available a specially selected range of kits, fabric, yarn, other materials, books and magazines to enable visitors to return home to create their own projects. Previous events with Kaffe at the Museum have generated unprecedented audiences. A priority booking line will be launched by the Museum next month to enable visitors to book ahead.

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#### Notes to editors

1. Kaffe Fassett – A Life in Colour is organised by the Fashion and Textile Museum and runs from 22 March to Saturday 29 June 2013.
2. Exhibition opening times: Tuesday–Saturday, 11am–6pm; Last admission 5.15pm. Ticket prices: £8 adults, £5.50 students and concessions, free entry for under 12s.
3. Booking information: call \*Online booking could be subject to a booking fee
4. The autobiography 'Kaffe Fassett Dreaming in Colour', accompanies the exhibition, published by Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 224 pages, hardback, £25.
5. Born in 1937 in San Francisco, Kaffe Fassett is an accomplished painter and designer of textiles. He has had museum exhibitions in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Australia, Canada, Holland, Finland and USA, plus gallery shows in France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand and Australia, drawing record attendance. Kaffe is a dedicated teacher who travels the world lecturing and sharing his work for up to five months of the year. He is the best-selling author of 18 patchwork books (13 for Rowan) and seven hardback knit books, all of which explore the role of colour in design. In 2014 Kaffe will be having his fourth exhibition at the American Museum in Bath.
6. The Fashion and Textile Museum is the only museum in the UK solely dedicated to showcasing developments in contemporary fashion, as well as providing inspiration, support and training for those working in the industry. Founded by iconic British designer Zandra Rhodes, the museum is owned by Newham College London – one of Europe's largest further education colleges.
7. The Fashion and Textile Museum is at 83 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 3XF. For further information about FTM and its activities visit [www.ftmlondon.org](http://www.ftmlondon.org)

#### Press Images

A selection of press images is available to promote the exhibition.  
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