

**wexner center
for the arts**

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FASHION INNOVATOR ISSEY MIYAKE TO RECEIVE WEXNER PRIZE

TRAILBLAZING DESIGNER TO VISIT COLUMBUS IN MAY TO ACCEPT \$50,000 AWARD

“He has transformed the making of clothing into such an elaborate, deliberate and thoughtful applied art that it encompasses most other artistic disciplines, painting, sculpture and architecture included.”—*The New York Times*

“We want to stimulate the imagination through clothing.”—Issey Miyake

Columbus—The 11th **Wexner Prize** will be awarded to revolutionary clothing designer **Issey Miyake**, the first artist in his field to receive this prestigious award. The \$50,000 Prize is given to a contemporary artist who has been consistently original, influential, and challenging to convention. Miyake will come to Columbus May 10 and 11 to receive the Prize in a private ceremony at the Wexner Center for the Arts.

In his three decades in design, Miyake has worked at the intersection of art and fashion, nature and technology, tradition and innovation, and East and West. He is considered not so much a fashion designer as an innovator who collaborates with artists from across the disciplines, from painting to sculpture to dance. One of his dresses, *Colombe*—a dress of white monofilament nylon that can be snapped at different points to create a three-dimensional form from a single flat piece of cloth—was on view at the Wexner Center in the design and art exhibition *Mood River*. Miyake has also designed garments for choreographer and past Wexner Prize recipient William Forsythe and his Frankfurt Ballet.

“Issey Miyake is a designer of uncommon brilliance and rare sensibilities,” says Sherri Geldin, director of the Wexner Center. “Renowned and revered internationally, Miyake personifies the fundamental attributes of this award: he is a bold thinker, a courageous innovator, and a creative catalyst across multiple artistic fields.”

Leslie Wexner, chair of the Wexner Center Foundation Board of Trustees and founder of Limited Brands, commented, “We are pleased to award the 11th Wexner Prize to design pioneer Issey Miyake. With his multidisciplinary approach and his use of technology in creating new fabrics, he has no less than revolutionized the fashion world.”

For more information about the Wexner Prize, including past recipients, see the attached document.

news releases

RELATED EVENTS

Harold Koda, curator-in-charge of the Costume Institute at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and a widely published author, will give a public talk titled “Issey Miyake: Subverting Fashion” on **Sunday, May 9 at 4 pm** in the Wexner Center Film/Video Theater. Admission to this lecture is free; a reception with Koda precedes the talk at 3 pm.

A **small installation of Miyake’s designs** will be on view in the Wexner Center’s Gallery A May 11–28 (open to the public weekdays), primarily for his reference in talking with students. An array of photographs and a video will be on view in the lower lobby of the Wexner Center.

ABOUT ISSEY MIYAKE

Issey Miyake was born in Hiroshima, Japan, in 1938. In 1964, having graduated from the Tama Art University Tokyo with a degree in graphic arts, he went to Paris, where until 1966, he attended the Ecole de la Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne. From 1966 to 1969, Miyake worked in various fashion houses, learning the art of haute couture in Paris, and later the methods of ready-to-wear in New York. At the same time he observed firsthand the energy of the hippie movement, as well as the social unrest and protest of the period. Early on, while watching the student riots in Paris, he decided to make clothing for “people in the streets,” or garments that could be universal.

In 1970, Miyake returned to Tokyo, where he established the Miyake Design Studio. Since 1973, when he first showed the ISSEY MIYAKE collection in Paris, Miyake has been regarded as an international clothing designer and one who has consistently broken the boundaries surrounding his craft, medium, and convention. His designs wed the expected with the unexpected, traditions rooted in handcrafts with the newest technological inventions.

In 1993 PLEATS PLEASE ISSEY MIYAKE was born from a search for a new form of clothing that would not only be accessible to a wide market, but that would also suit the needs of a modern lifestyle. In the late '90s, Miyake took the idea of universal clothing to yet another new plane, creating a technology-driven line with unlimited potential called A-POC (A Piece of Cloth). With A-POC, a piece of thread is fed into a machine and, in a single computer-aided process, the fabric, texture, and form of a finished garment are created without cutting or sewing.

For more on Miyake, visit www.isseymiyake.com.

WEXNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

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