



December 30, 2009

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Touring Geisha Exhibit Arriving at the  
Okotoks Art Gallery | At the Station**

**From Geisha to Diva: The Kimono of Ichimaru**, a collection of 24 magnificent, rare kimonos and other personal effects that once belonged to Ichimaru, a geisha turned popular singer and entertainer in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Japan, will be on display at the Okotoks Art Gallery at the Station from **January 8 - March 7, 2010**.

This travelling exhibit, organized by the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and the Department of Canadian Heritage's Museum Assistance program, showcases intricately patterned and embroidered kimonos from the 1930s to 1970s. It also features obi (waist sashes), wigs, hair combs, fans, sandals and other belongings of Ichimaru.

The show tells the story of the elegant and accomplished entertainer who rose from a background of poverty to become one of her country's national treasures. It also provides insight into women's history in Japan, and how gender roles, cultural values and stereotypes affect ideals of artistic expression.

A public opening reception with refreshments will be held at the gallery on **Friday, January 8 from 7 – 9pm**.

Further details are available at the Okotoks Art Gallery or by visiting [www.okotoksculture.ca](http://www.okotoksculture.ca).

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**For more information:**

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