

Press Release

Mingei International Museum spring exhibitions bursting with creativity and whimsy.

*The exhibitions **FOLD, TWIST, TIE Paper Bag Hats by moses** and **Niki & Mingei** open April 8, 2022.*

SAN DIEGO — March 16, 2022 — On April 8, 2022, Mingei International Museum will open two new exhibitions featuring artists with a deep connection to the Museum, and bursting with creativity and whimsy. Located in the heart of San Diego in the historic Balboa Park, Mingei's exhibitions, [***FOLD, TWIST, TIE Paper Bag Hats by moses***](#) and [***Niki & Mingei***](#) will feature the work of artists Niki de Saint Phalle (1930–2002) and moses* (1931–2015) as an innovative expression of Mingei's mission.

Self-taught artist moses is best known for his whimsical and sculptural paper bag hats. Each piece mimics materials ranging from leather to bamboo and challenges conventional ideas with extraordinary and elaborate design. ***FOLD, TWIST, TIE*** explores the process behind the making of his hats, pairing them with recently restored photos of his creations, often worn by enthusiastic participants. The hats were given grand titles by the artist, such as *Sun Queen* and *Thelonious*. The utilitarian paper bag, usually used to hold groceries or lunch, is transformed in this exhibition. Viewers will delight in the creative designs of moses and are sure to leave the show rethinking this simple material.

The exhibition ***Niki & Mingei*** will feature fantastic furniture and furnishings by French-American artist Niki de Saint Phalle. Drawn from Mingei's permanent collection and select loans, the objects in this exhibition offer a playful and colorful contrast to purely functional living. Whether it's a vase sporting colorful acrobatic legs or a wooden chair with gem-studded snakes, this exhibition speaks to an important yet under-recognized part of Saint Phalle's prodigious career in San Diego.

Mingei Senior Curator, Barbara Hanson Forsyth shares, "The exhibitions ***FOLD, TWIST, TIE Paper Bag Hats by moses*** and ***Niki & Mingei*** shine light on the process, materials and imaginations of the artist and designer, Niki de Saint Phalle and moses."

Niki and moses each treated familiar objects in new and unexpected ways. Moses transformed the humble paper bag into "pure alchemy," while Saint Phalle turned familiar everyday objects such as chairs, lamps and vases into wondrous, functional sculptures. Both artists worked through personal struggles and for the most part, avoided formal art training, favoring their own provocative and amusing styles instead.

*Please note, the artist moses does not capitalize his name.

Download exhibition images [HERE](#).

ABOUT MINGEI INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM

Located in San Diego's Balboa Park, Mingei International Museum collects, preserves and exhibits folk art, craft and design from all eras and cultures of the world. Within a newly reopened facility that includes an education center, theater, shop, restaurant and plenty of free, accessible public space, the Museum offers inspiring exhibitions and diverse community and educational programs to more than 100,000 visitors a year. As the presenter of [San Diego Design Week](#) and a partner to over 50 local artists and art and cultural organizations, Mingei puts celebrating creativity at the core of its mission through workshops, film festivals, lectures and more. Mingei is a nonprofit institution funded by admission, individuals, and institutional support.

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