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## SUGARVEIL® CONFECTIONS, JAPANESE STYLE

Art Exhibit to feature Japanese-inspired Confections

Kansas City, MO - Local artist/confectioner Michele Hester will collaborate once again with internationally acclaimed silversmith Robyn Nichols during Nichols' 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition: "The Dressing of a Geisha". The exhibition's opening will include a free public reception November 16 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Pearl Gallery, 1818 McGee, in the Kansas City Crossroads Arts District. To complement Nichols' newly-designed silver, Hester will utilize her patented SugarVeil® confectionery product to present a series of plated desserts influenced by "Wagashi", Japanese confections tied to ancient spiritual lore which mirror the shapes and colors of nature through the seasons.

During the opening reception, the public will be able to witness a performance choreographed by Hollywood stylist Yuko Tonkunaga (whose credits include the box office hit "Memoirs of a Geisha"), as Kyoto-based modern geisha Kaori Soda and traditional Japanese dancer Yoshiko Yamanaka display the elaborate ritual of dressing a geisha.

Previous collaborations with Nichols resulted in a wedding gown of SugarVeil on a live model and a two-foot square floating cake wrapped within a SugarVeil tapestry.

Michele Hester, patent holder and originator of intellectual property in both the textile and the food industries, licenses her inventions and product concepts internationally. Her award-winning work in confection has graced multiple magazine covers, and professional chefs embrace her products in fashioning elaborate decorations for desserts.

Robyn Nichols' jewelry and tableware is collected worldwide and is contained in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum and the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia. Echoing the exquisite grace of Japanese style, Nichols' lotus, cherry blossom, and maple leaf designs sensuously evoke the delicate shapes of nature.



SugarVeil plated dessert by Michele Hester



Red Maple brooch by Robyn Nichols

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