



# Waikato WOW outfits Hong Kong-bound

**Louise Risk**

Two wearable art outfits from the Waikato are winging their way to Hong Kong to be showcased on an international stage.

*Indigo Warriors* by Yuki Tanaka and *Here Comes the Circus* by Amy Dicks-Johnston have been selected for the first international World of WearableArt (WOW) performance, to be held at the renowned 2012 Hong Kong Arts Festival.

Tanaka's garments won first prize in the Booker Spalding First Time Entrant Award category at last year's Brancott Estate WOW Awards Show, and Dicks-Johnston was highly commended for her garment in 2003.

The Hong Kong Arts Festival is a major annual international festival in Asia and is the region's premier cultural event, presenting over 200 performances of music, theatre and dance by some of the best artists from around the world, to an audience of 150,000.

Tanaka's and Dicks-Johnston's garments will appear along with more than 100 others from the historical WOW collection in a 70-minute show that will be repeated at least eight times between January 29 and February 5.

World of WearableArt managing director Gabrielle Hervey said key elements of last year's open section, which had a focus on colour and dance, along with dozens of dance and character costumes and props would also be showcased. She said at least 16,000 people were expected to attend.

"We aim to show New Zealand to be a country of creativity and colour, presenting a different side of us from the way that

perhaps the Hong Kong and Chinese market traditionally think of us, Ms Hervey said. "Much of the audience is unlikely to have ever seen WOW before, so they won't know what has hit them."

Dicks-Johnston, who now works in the fashion industry in Auckland, said she had been notified that her garment had been shortlisted for the Hong Kong show, but was unaware it had been accepted.

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**Artistic duo:** *Indigo Warriors* by Yuki Tanaka has been selected to be shown at the 2012 Hong Kong Arts Festival.

**Photo: Fairfax NZ**



**On show:** *Here Comes the Circus*, by Amy Dicks-Johnston, has also been selected to be shown at the Hong Kong Arts Festival.