The Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University and the Australian Centre of Asia-Pacific Art, Queensland Art Gallery would like to invite you to

**Perspectives: Asia Seminar**

**Contemporary Japanese Fashion Design: Where Art Meets Fashion**

By: Assoc Professor Bonnie English, Art and design historian and lecturer.

Australian engagement with Asia remains a perennial question in the national conversation. Three Japanese designers- Issey Miyake, Yohji Yamamoto and Rei Kawakubo of Comme des Garçons have had a profound impact upon the direction of fashion design over the past 40 years. They introduced a new aesthetic to the international fashion industry that broke traditions of construction, presentation, distribution and marketing. Their work epitomised postmodernist ideals and embraced notions of fashion as art: Miyake created sculptures in cloth; Yamamoto imbued his garments with memory and meaning; and Kawakubo tied feminist concept to creation. Previous conspicuous consumptive patterns of status, glamour and ostentation succumbed to this new ‘left’ and fashion was able to cross boundaries of cultural aestheticism. By revolutionising and re-contextualising sartorial objectives, the designers were able to offer the industry clothing that was more than merely a ‘second skin’.

Bonnie English is an ex-pat Canadian who has taught theory at the Queensland College of Art since 1975. Her teaching and research has focused on 20th century visual arts history including the history of design, fashion/costume design history, and the interrelationship of fashion and art.

In 1997, her CD-ROM *Fashion and Art* won a national ASCILITE award - Griffith’s first multimedia flexible learning award. Her CD-ROM *Japanese Postmodernist Fashion* was a finalist in the 2004 ASCILITE awards. After two years of working as the Queensland College of Art project liaison officer at the Brisbane City Gallery, Bonnie co-curated the *Tokyo Vogue: Japanese & Australian Fashion* exhibition at the gallery in 1999, the first major fashion design exhibition held in Queensland and the first major exhibition of Japanese contemporary fashion in Australia. Bonnie has lectured and presented conference papers both nationally and internationally in Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Oslo, New York and Granada, Spain.


→ **Cinema B, Gallery of Modern Art, Stanley Place, South Bank**
→ **Thursday 8 March 2012**
→ **The doors open at 5:30pm**

Guests are welcome to join us for refreshments prior to the seminar. Places are limited, please book early to avoid disappointment. Please RSVP, to Sylvia Gillard by Friday 2 March 2012 on telephone 07 3735 5322 or email s.gillard@griffth.edu.au