

For Immediate Release:



## New design collaboration brings one-of-a-kind couture to upholstered seating

Gendo Collection elevates functional pieces to works of art through hand-made textiles, painterly color and hand-sewn lines

April 1, 2016: Couture-trained fabric artist and designer, [Maki Yamamoto](#) and Melissa Dougherty of [Five Finger Furnishings](#), designer and creator of one-of-a-kind upholstered seating proudly introduce their first collaboration, the Gendo Collection. Due to be launched at ICFF (Javitz Center on May 14-17, 2016), the collection includes a sofa, chair, bench and vanity-sized stool suitable for residential, commercial or hospitality use.

“This is truly couture seating,” said Ms. Yamamoto. “Each piece is meant to make a statement and set a trend. We’ve literally dressed the pieces in textile treatments conceived and created just for them. Our work elevates these functional pieces, transforming them into works of art.”

Each piece in the Gendo Collection--meaning “movement” in Japanese--is a collage of handmade and collectible textiles, including couture’s pleats, flowers and bows; painterly color and hand-sewn lines. Textiles are created and combined to project texture, shape and movement—not just stretched tight to cover a surface.

“We chose simple pieces, so that the textiles could really be the focus,” Ms Dougherty explained. “The work is somewhere between collage and sculpture—made to sit on!”

Highlights of the collection include:

The Saidai ("maximalist art") Sofa demonstrates a variety of techniques, including pleating, free-form hand and machine stitching, and creation of flowers (or other sculptural details), along with the use of traditional (e.g., Japanese Obi) alongside contemporary textiles. Custom designed fabric treatments are applied by hand using sculptural and traditional upholstery techniques--ensuring that the design retains its original integrity and gains strength.

The Yura Yura Chair is named for the distinctive, looping fringe design on the outside of the chair: "Yura Yura" is Japanese, suggesting swinging, shaking and waving. The velvet inside back a traditional Japanese mountain motif, created using an artistic collage of organically shaped silk elements that are hand stitched to a velvet backdrop and surrounded by decorative knots.

The Asobi bench--"playful" in Japanese--is sophisticated, yet so much fun. The top is composed entirely of vintage silk Japanese obi, the sash on a kimono. The bench overall reflects a summers day. Its bright blue surface is detailed with a small, hand-sewn, and very traditional Japanese motif: children playing.

#### About Maki Yamamoto

Maki was trained in fashion design in Tokyo, before moving to New York in 1997. Her current work draws on couture sewing techniques to create and produce fabric works of art for private homes and commercial clients including: Peter Marino projects for Chanel, Dior and Guerlain; as well as Amy Lau, Pierce Allen, Gettys Hospitality Design, Therese Virserius Design and others. Her work has been featured in magazines including *Interior Design*, *Hospitality*, *Contract* and *New York Space*, and in Lau's book Expressive Modern. Maki's product range includes a variety of home décor accessories, as well as stand-alone pieces of art.

More at [www.maki-yamamoto.com](http://www.maki-yamamoto.com)

#### About Five Finger Furnishings

Owner and creative director Melissa Dougherty is a master upholsterer, trained in traditional techniques—as well as a serial entrepreneur with a background in painting and sculpture. Five Finger Furnishings merges traditional, artisanal upholstery techniques with a painterly vision and the clean lines and balanced forms of mid-century modern design. Melissa collaborates with interior and fabric designers and sells finished chairs, sofas and benches directly to the consumer and trade, at retail and online.

More at [www.fivefingerfurnishings.com](http://www.fivefingerfurnishings.com), or follow us @five\_finger\_furnishings