

Turning Japanese



Japanese fashion designer Masahiro Nakagawa, founder of 90471120, and his team Nakagawa Sochi will be at Pymont's Powerhouse Museum this week to present "Tokyo Recycle Project #15". Under the project, Nakagawa's fashion recyclers work to transform people's old garments into pieces of cool couture.

Those who have signed up and paid to take part in the project choose the level of reinvention they want for their garments, with options ranging from minimally modified to high fashion. The recyclers use written questionnaires and face-to-face consultation to discover the style and expectations of the clothes owner, as well as the history of the pieces themselves.

The Recycle Project was born from Nakagawa's response to Tokyo's overwhelming consumer culture and the belief that "frugality is the key to tackling Japan's plunging economy".

"Tokyo Recycle Project #15" will be on display from September 24 to October 9.

Continuing the theme, the museum is also presenting a new exhibition called "The cutting edge: fashion from Japan". The exhibition will showcase works by designers including Issey Miyake, Yohji Yamamoto and Rei Kawakubo. Drawn from collections held by the Kyoto Costume Institute the exhibition also features contributions from the Powerhouse Museum and Australia public and private collections. The exhibition will showcase almost 60 garments highlighting avant garde design and the use of technologically innovative textiles from the past twenty years.

"The story of Japanese fashion is both brief and extraordinary," curator Louise Mitchell said. "The adaptation of clothing as fashion was a new concept for the Japanese in the post World War II years."

The exhibition will be on display from September 27 until January 29.