

# Textures of nature

## ROWLAND RICKETTS

Rowland Ricketts savors the moment when the indigo dye he uses is in the vat, just beginning to ferment. “Momentarily, I stand between the history of the materials and processes that helped me get the indigo thus far and the promise of all the works that the vat is still yet to realize,” says the assistant professor of textiles in the Henry Radford Hope School of Fine Arts at Indiana University Bloomington. The indigo-dyed works pictured here are adaptations

of *noren*, traditional Japanese partitions. Ricketts says the *noren* he creates both separate space and collect its light and air, reflecting our “transitory experience.”

Ricketts processes his own indigo using centuries-old methods that include harvesting and drying by hand, methods he learned in part as an apprentice in Japan. Those lessons still infuse his textile work. “As a dyer,” Ricketts says, “I strive to transfigure all the energy of human endeavor expended in the making of this dye so that its vitality lives on in the dyed cloth.”



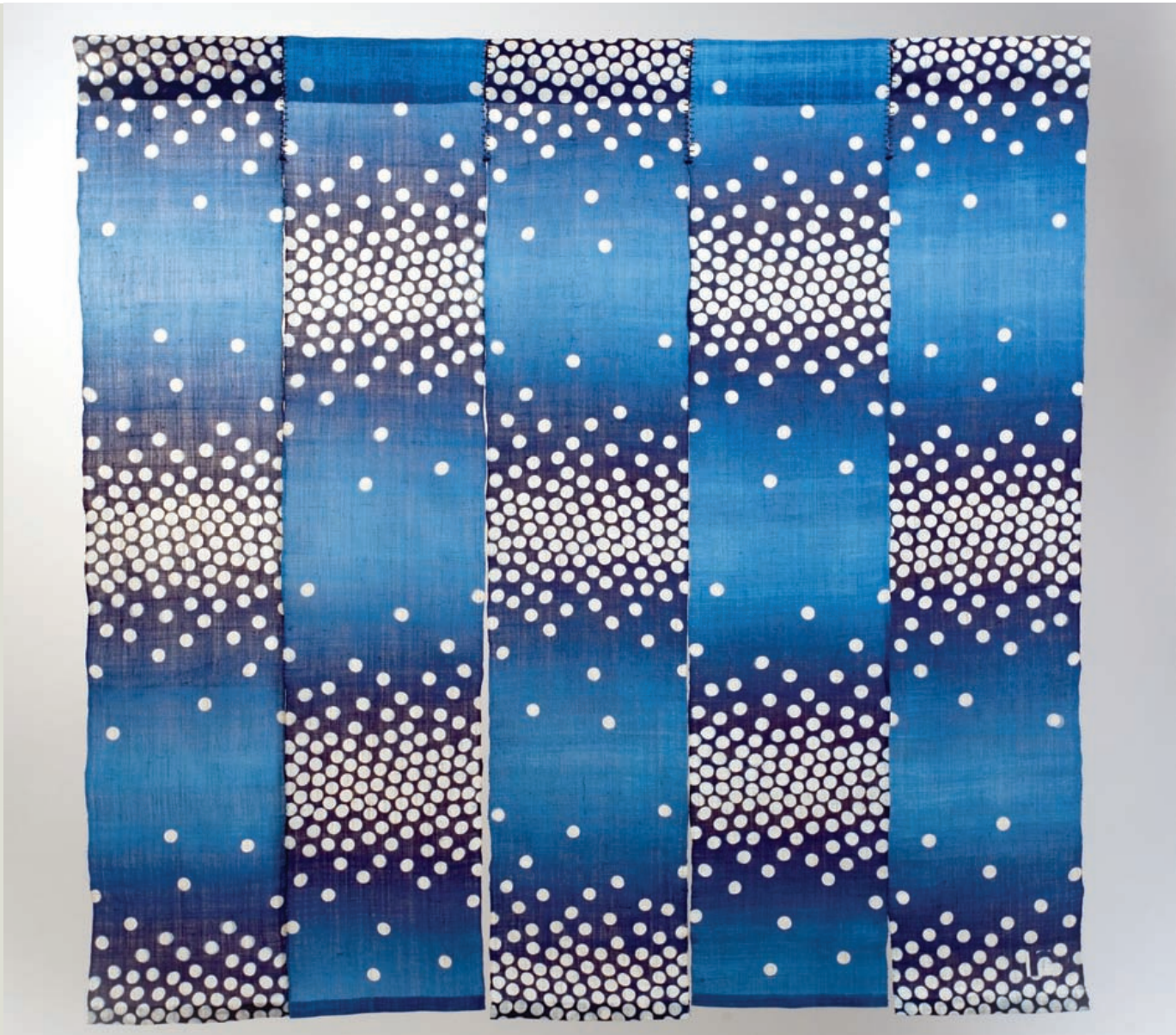


Photo by Osamu James Nakagawa



Photo by Rowland Ricketts



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*Noren*  
 Ricketts's *noren*, meaning partitions, 60" x 60", are made using indigo dyed ramie and *katazome* (stencilled paste resist).  
 [OPPOSITE PAGE] Rowland Ricketts stands behind an untitled creation. Ricketts is an assistant professor of textiles at IU Bloomington.  
 [ABOVE AND LEFT] Untitled *noren*, 2006  
 [RIGHT] Untitled *noren* detail, 2007