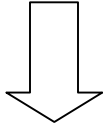
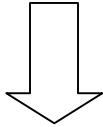


## Restoring Cambodia's Silkmaking Traditions

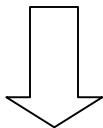
1980: Morimoto discovers the beauty of Cambodian silk while working at a refugee camp.



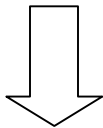
1994: As part of a UNESCO mission to Cambodia, Morimoto goes to villages to find a few weavers with knowledge of the ancient Cambodian art of silk production.



1996: Morimoto sets up a silk production studio with seven weavers.



Over time, Morimoto restores critical silk production elements such as silkworms and the environmental elements (e.g., trees where insects used for dyes can live) needed to recreate the ancient glory of Cambodian silks.



Today, more than 400 people work in Morimoto's studio, where young women work alongside the elderly to pass the knowledge of the silkmaking craft to the next generation. Workers at the studio earn \$80-200/month (average Cambodian income is \$300/year). The studio is striving to make the best ikat fabrics in the world.