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## Kevin O'Brien Adds Resist-Dyed Fabrics To His Design Portfolio

Philadelphia, PA -- Textile entrepreneur Kevin O'Brien has designed a new collection of tie-dyed products, inspired by ancient Japanese indigo textiles. His home furnishings product line has long included fabrics designed with old world techniques, including hand-painted ombre velvets and dip-dyed linens. His new product collection, "Shibori", is named after the traditional Japanese resist-dyeing technique that dates back to the 8th century.

Traditional *shibori* patterns are achieved through a combination of binding, folding, twisting, knotting, stitching, and clamping, and each method results in very different patterns. Kevin O'Brien Studio uses the *kumo shibori* method, which involves folding the fabric into pleats, then binding it into sections. This creates a pattern that moves like electricity, with one color spontaneously merging into another.

The new collection includes bedding and throw pillows made with a linen/cotton blend fabric that is machine washable. The products are available in 5 color combinations that are inspired by the culture of Japan. This includes indigo blue, rich reds, and soft greens.

When asked what inspired him to create this new product, O'Brien said "Shibori is a process of letting nature take it's course, with a little intervention from me. The designer can only do so much and then sit back and be surprised. If the colors are right then these free form pieces make great complements to the velvets and prints that make up the rest of our line."

The line debuted over the past summer, and has become one of their best-selling bedding items. "The Shibori line has attracted a different type of customer for us. . . People are responding very positively to the casual style of these bed linens," says Lee Crane, manager of the company's home furnishings production. Until now, the company's bedding line has primarily included hand-painted velvet and intricately embroidered linen/cotton duvet covers and shams, both of which attracted a clientele with a taste for luxury designed with organic motifs.

This is also the first bedding collection that the company has offered for a twin sized bed, because of the great number of customers that were requesting the Shibori bedding for a child's room. The line's casual style and energetic pattern gives it a youthful attitude.

The Shibori pieces can be purchased from the company directly (to the trade only), or at the company's boutique in ABC Carpet and Home in Manhattan. Additional retailers are listed on the KOBS website.

