This week in Chicago: “Stories in Cloth”
A collector-curated exhibit makes a few gaffes but is worth a visit.
By Madeline Nusser
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On the introductory panel of this Loyola University Museum of Art (LUMA) exhibit, the collector-curator penned an awkward poem, the last line of which reads, “In our universe, only sunshine and flowers exceed [textiles].” If the museumgoer accepts this as curatorial flourish and not fact, there are indeed reasons to see this exhibit (which, for better or worse, feels a bit like a well-traveled person’s closet): Of the 100-plus textiles from around the world, highlights include a late-19th-century American quilt—at once trippy and quaint—and a fantastical Nigerian dance costume, adorned with an ornate hairstyle and tiny, childlike mask.