

# KIMONO THE TRIUMPH OF JAPANESE DRESS

MARCH 8 THROUGH JUNE 8, 2025



For many of us, the word “kimono” immediately conjures up mental images—probably of geisha, the famous artist-entertainers of Japan in their elaborate, traditional dress. However, the word kimono itself has a much broader meaning and encompasses clothing not just for women, but for men, girls, and boys. These garments range from exquisite ceremonial robes to simple everyday clothing, many of which follow the same, simple but sophisticated construction. But, depending upon their ornamentation or materials, these remarkable garments can convey an extraordinary amount of information, from major social movements to the seasons of the year.

This exhibition, organized around several interwoven themes, will feature over one hundred extraordinary kimono dating from the late Edo period (1603-1867) through Shōwa era (1926-1989). It will include examples of furisode, the kimono with beautiful, long sleeves worn by young women or stage performers, and men’s juban, the austere but elegant under-kimono often decorated with mythical scenes or wrestlers.

The exhibition will also explore the manufacture of these incredible garments, from the weaving of the tanmono—the long, narrow bolt of cloth of which they are sewn, to the creation of the decorative designs which ornament them. In addition to finely woven damasks or brocades, many kimono feature intricate free-hand painting using a resist process, often combined with superb embroidery using gold-wrapped or even lacquered threads, as well as glorious shibori, which is akin to Western tie-dyeing. Also, the exhibition will incorporate related accessories, including obi—the prized, traditional sashes, as well as Japanese photography, woodblock prints, and decorative arts.

***Kimono: The Triumph of Japanese Dress*** promises to be not only visually stunning, but will give us a rare opportunity to experience a wide range of these extraordinary pieces of clothing. In addition, it will enrich our understanding of an ancient, but ever evolving art form.

**MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS  
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LEFT: Unknown Artist, active Late Meiji Period– early Shōwa Period, *Uchikake* (outer kimono) with *Manmaku* (Curtain), *Pine Branch*, and *Plum Blossom Decoration*, c.1900 – 1940, Silk with embroidery and shibori (tie-dye)  
TR14.2024.1, Selected works from the collection of Norma Canelas and William Roth

RIGHT: Unknown Artist, Late Taishō – early Shōwa Period, *Obi with Scene Featuring Western Style Houses and Boats*, 1920s – 1930s, Silk  
TR14.2024.5, Selected works from the collection of Norma Canelas and William Roth

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# EXHIBITION SPONSORSHIP



Unknown Artist, active early Shōwa Period, *Boy's Kimono with Propaganda Designs*, c. 1935, Silk, TR14.2024.2, Selected works from the collection of Norma Canelas and William Roth

**Exhibition Sponsorship** at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg provides patrons and corporate partners exclusive opportunities to deepen their engagement with the museum’s mission while enjoying unique benefits including **exclusive recognition**, **behind-the-scenes access**, and **invitations to special events**.

BENEFITS AND RECOGNITION	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,000
<b>Digital Recognition</b> – social + exhibition page	•	•	•	•	•
Recognition on gallery <b>Gratitude Wall</b>	•	•	•	•	
Invitations for 2 to <b>exclusive preview</b>	•	•	•		
10 MFA <b>Guest passes</b> (FMV \$220)	•	•			
Premium recognition on <b>Exhibition Title Wall</b>	•	•			
<b>Private tour</b> with up to 4 guests	•				
Additional recognition as exhibition sponsor	•				

Additional exclusive benefits are available for sponsorships above \$25,000.

We are so grateful to all our donors, members, and community partners. Their generosity supports exhibitions, education initiatives, and conservation projects and helps **connect our community through the power of art**.

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