

着物

KIMONO

THE TRIUMPH OF JAPANESE DRESS

Although the word “kimono” usually calls to mind the images of geisha, the famous artist-entertainers of Japan, the word itself has a much broader meaning and encompasses clothing not just for women, but for men, girls, and boys. This exhibition, organized around the social connotations, symbolism, and craftsmanship of these garments, will feature over one hundred and twenty extraordinary kimono from the Edo period (1603-1867) through the Shōwa era (1926-1989)—all drawn from private collections. These works range from exquisite ceremonial robes to humble everyday clothing, most of which follow the same simple but sophisticated fabrication. Over the last two hundred years, the physical form of kimono has changed very little—despite Western influence and Japanese campaigns to modernize their culture. Instead, the artists who created these splendid wearable art objects worked within the narrow confines of the traditional kimono to create triumphs of visionary design and brilliant technique.

Kimono: The Triumph of Japanese Dress includes a variety of garments—made by extraordinarily skilled but largely anonymous artists—reflecting a range of needs and purposes. Among these are spectacular *furisode*, the long, fluttering-sleeved kimono intended for young, unmarried women. The brilliant coloring, bold decorations, and exquisite craftsmanship of *furisode* were intended to reflect the youthful vibrancy of the wearer, as well as her intellectual sophistication, good taste, and the relative wealth of her family. No less magnificent are the *uchikake*, luxurious outer garments usually of embroidered silk. These are recognizable both for their exquisite decoration but also for their plump, weighted hems which cause them to trail sumptuously behind the wearer. In contrast, the exhibition will also feature humbler but no less compelling garments of resist-dyed cotton—richly hued with indigo—worn by fishermen and farmers. ***Kimono: The Triumph of Japanese Dress*** also includes a selection of men’s *haori*, the outwardly austere jackets which are lined with boldly masculine images of power and strength, as well as *tomesode*, shorter-sleeved garments with subdued, yet captivating decoration, considered appropriate for matrons. Enhancing this wide range of kimono are *obi*—the prized sashes traditionally used tie these garments, as well as a selection of *kanzashi* or hair ornaments of tortoise shell, coral, lacquer, and precious metals. Complementing these extraordinary garments and accoutrements, and providing rich context for understanding them, are a number of woodblock prints, ephemera, design books, and photographs.

Kimono: The Triumph of Japanese Dress is not only visually stunning, but offers a rare opportunity to learn about these extraordinary pieces of clothing. In addition, it enriches understanding of an ancient but ever evolving art form which even today is an immediately recognizable symbol of Japan.



Unknown Artist, Japanese
Furisode, c. 1920
Silk with resist-dye decoration and embroidery
Collection of Peter Kuhlman and Diane Gilmour



Unknown Artist, Japanese
Kimono, 20th century
Cotton with indigo resist-dye decoration
Selected works from the collection of
Norma Canelas Roth and William Roth

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EXHIBITION SPECIFICATIONS

NUMBER OF WORKS

Approximately 130 kimono, 20 obi, and 30 kanzashi; woodblock prints, design books, photographs, and historical ephemera; kimono display stands

ORGANIZED BY

Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg

CURATORS

Stanton Thomas, PhD, Chief Curator
Jason Wyatt, Director of Collections Management

BOOKING PERIOD

Available beginning Fall 2025

SIZE

Installation requires approximately 5,500 square feet; can be adapted to smaller space

PARTICIPATION FEE

\$75,000 plus shipping (traveling exhibitions technician, packing, and crating costs included)

ADDITIONAL FEES

Shipping

CONTACT

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Unknown Artist, Japanese
Uchikake, c. 1930
Silk with resist-dye decoration and embroidery
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SELECTED WORKS



Unknown Artist, Japanese
Woman's Furisode, c. 1917-1922,
Silk, Collection of Peter Kuhlmann
and Diane Gilmour



Unknown Artist, Japanese
Furisode, c. 1900
Silk, with shibori and resist-dye decoration; embroidery
Selected works from the collection of
Norma Canelas Roth and William Roth



Unknown Artist, Japanese
Boy's Kimono, c. 1920
Cotton, printed
Selected works from the collection of
Norma Canelas Roth and William Roth



Unknown Artist, Japanese
Man's Haori, c. 1920
Silk, embroidered and resist-dyed
Selected works from the collection of
Norma Canelas Roth and William Roth

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INSTALLATION

