



# KNOWING KIMONO

## A Family Guide

**Kimono** (kee-mo-no) is a Japanese word that means “thing to wear.” **Kimono** look like robes and have been worn in Japan for hundreds of years. In this exhibition, you will see **kimono** from Japan that are more than 80 years old and were worn by men, women and children.



### FASHIONING KIMONO:

Art Deco and Modernism in Japan

The Samuel P. Harn Memorial Exhibition  
March 8 - May 17, 2009

The exhibition is organized and circulated by  
Art Services International in Alexandria, Virginia.  
Made possible locally by the AEC Trust.

### KIMONO AND CRESTS

#### What is a Crest?

A crest is a design that represents something that is important to a family. Here are three samples:



**Takanoha** (tah-kah-no-ha) is Japanese for “hawk feather” and is the symbol for the **samurai** (sam-ah-ri), ancient Japanese warriors.

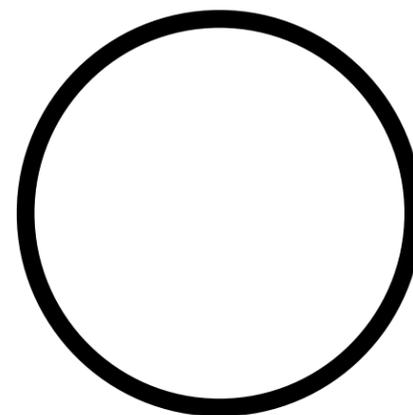


**Fuji** (foo-jee) means “wisteria” in Japanese and is the crest used most in Japan. Wisteria is a plant that has low-hanging, purple blooms. This crest symbolizes humbleness and respect.



**Kiri** (keer-e) is Japanese for “paulownia” (paw-low-nee-uh), which is a tree. The wood from this tree was used to make very expensive pieces of furniture. This is why the **kiri** crest symbolizes high excellence and worth.

#### What would your family crest look like?



### WORDS TO KNOW

Unscramble the words below.



Answers: 1. Kimono, 2. Haori, 3. Yukata, 4. Juban, 5. Uchikake, 6. Furisode, 7. Tomesode

**Cover:** Woman's kimono, Taisho period, 1912-1926

**What Women Wear:** Woman's formal, long-sleeved kimono (uchikake), Early Showa period, 1930s

Young woman's formal kimono (furisode), Taisho period, 1920s

Woman's semiformal kimono (tomesode), Taisho period, 1912-1926

**Kids' Kimono:** Infant boy's ceremonial kimono (miyamairi), Taisho period, 1920s

**Inside Out Art:** Man's formal jacket (haori), Early Showa period, 1930s-1940s

**Design Details:** Man's underkimono (juban), Early Showa period, 1930s-1940s

**Seasons of Style:** Woman's formal, long-sleeved kimono (furisode), Taisho period, 1920s

All images courtesy of the Montgomery Collection, Lugano, Switzerland



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**FREE ADMISSION**

**Museum Hours:** Tue - Fri, 11-5 | Sat, 10-5 | Sun, 1-5

**Guided Tours:** Sat and Sun, 2 p.m.

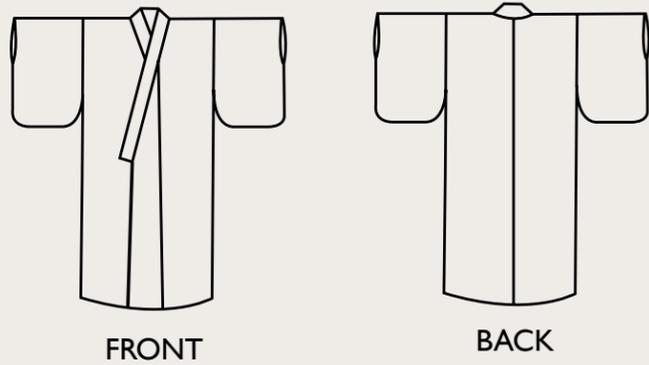
**Camellia Court Café:** 7 days a week, 11-3

SW 34th St. & Hull Rd.

www.harn.ufl.edu  
352.392.9826



## WEARING KIMONO



FRONT

BACK

Remember, when wearing a kimono you always fold the left side over the right! Folding a kimono right to left is the traditional way to dress someone for burial.

## WHAT WOMEN WEAR



What is an **uchikake** (oo-chee-ka-kay)?

An **uchikake** is a beautifully decorated kimono, usually worn on a special occasion like a wedding.

A **furisode** (fury-so-day) is a kimono worn by a single woman, and a **tomesode** (toe-may-so-day) is a kimono worn by a married woman. A **furisode** has longer sleeves, and a **tomesode** has shorter sleeves. To tell the difference, look at the length of the sleeves.



FURISODE



TOMESODE

## KIDS' KIMONO



Children's kimono could be worn every day as a school uniform or for a special occasion. A **miyamairi** (mee-ah-ma-eer-ee) is a kimono worn by an infant who is being blessed by

a priest. The priest will pray for the baby's health and happiness.



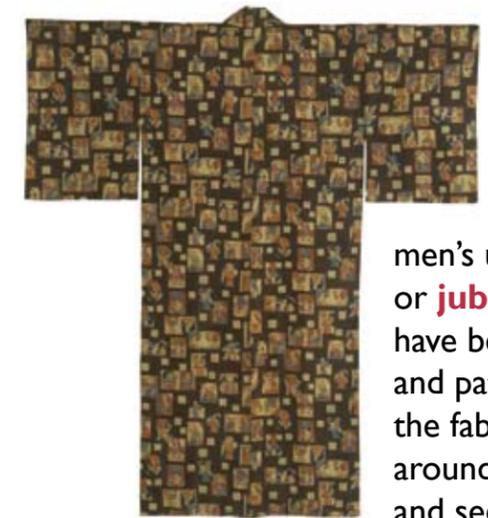
The cranes on this **miyamairi** symbolize long life, and the bamboo symbolizes strength.

## INSIDE OUT ART

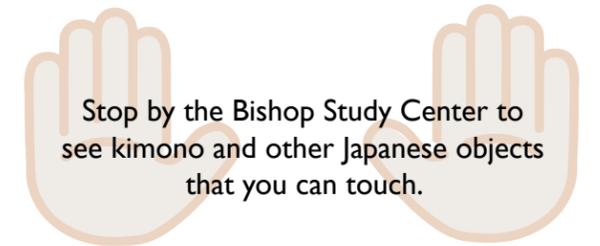
A **haori** (hay-or-ee) is a formal jacket. When a man's haori is turned inside out, you can see handpainted designs on the inside. The Japanese believed that beauty should be within, and this is why the designs are on the inside.



## DESIGN DETAILS



Kimono for men are usually very simple in design, but men's underkimono, or **juban** (joo-ban), have beautiful designs and patterns all over the fabric. Walk around the gallery and see how many men's **juban** you can find.



Stop by the Bishop Study Center to see kimono and other Japanese objects that you can touch.

## SEASONS OF STYLE

During the summer, Japan can be very hot and humid, just like Florida. That is why the **katabira** (kat-a-bee-ruh) kimono is worn. A **katabira**, or summer kimono, is made of very light cotton.

**Katabira** often have images of birds and water to remind the wearer of a cool breeze or cold water.

Walk around the exhibition, and see if you can figure out which kimono are **katabira**.



Kimono fabric can have many different designs. These designs can be seasonal. Walk around the gallery and look for spring, fall and winter kimono. Spring kimono have images of flowers that bloom in the spring, such as plum blossoms, and fall kimono have images of fall flowers, such as chrysanthemums. Pine trees and bamboo are not only symbols of good luck but also are used to decorate winter kimono.