A Celebration of Japan's Textile and Costume Traditions

日本の布と伝統衣装の祭典

Riverside Metropolitan Museum
March, 2007 - January, 2008

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Arts Walk Reception
Thursday, March 1, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Family Fun Day: Asobi (Play)
Make origami, learn how to use chopsticks and play Japanese games
Sunday, March 4, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

"Materials, Motifs, and Meanings: Japanese Textiles in Daily Life" Lecture
Speaker Sharon S. Takeda, Senior Curator and Department Head, Textiles and Costumes, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
March 17, 1:00 p.m.

"Matsuri! Japanese Festival Costumes" Lecture
Speaker Gloria Granz Gonick, Scholar and Researcher of Japanese Festivals and Costumes
March 24, 1:00 p.m.

RIVERSIDE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM

3580 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, CA 92501
951.826.5273 www.riversideca.gov/museum

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The exhibition will honor and explore the roots and beauty of the traditional Japanese garment, the Kimono, as well as other popular formal and informal Japanese textiles. The silk kimonos and obi (tie for kimono) from the late 19th to 20th centuries reflect a variety of decorative techniques from embroidery to figured weaves. Complex designs hallmark these formal textiles which make their wear acceptable for weddings and other important occasions. Informal textiles are generally made of indigo blue and white patterned cotton. They were used daily for kimonos, work clothes, bedding, and wrapping cloths by people living in the countryside, villages, and towns.

Informal textiles were made by Japanese people for their own use and their family's clothing and household textiles. These simple and functional textiles are linked in their materials, colors, and patterns.

Fireman's Jacket
Japan, Taisho/Early Showa periods [1920-1935]

Furoshiki
Japan, Meiji period [1868-1912]

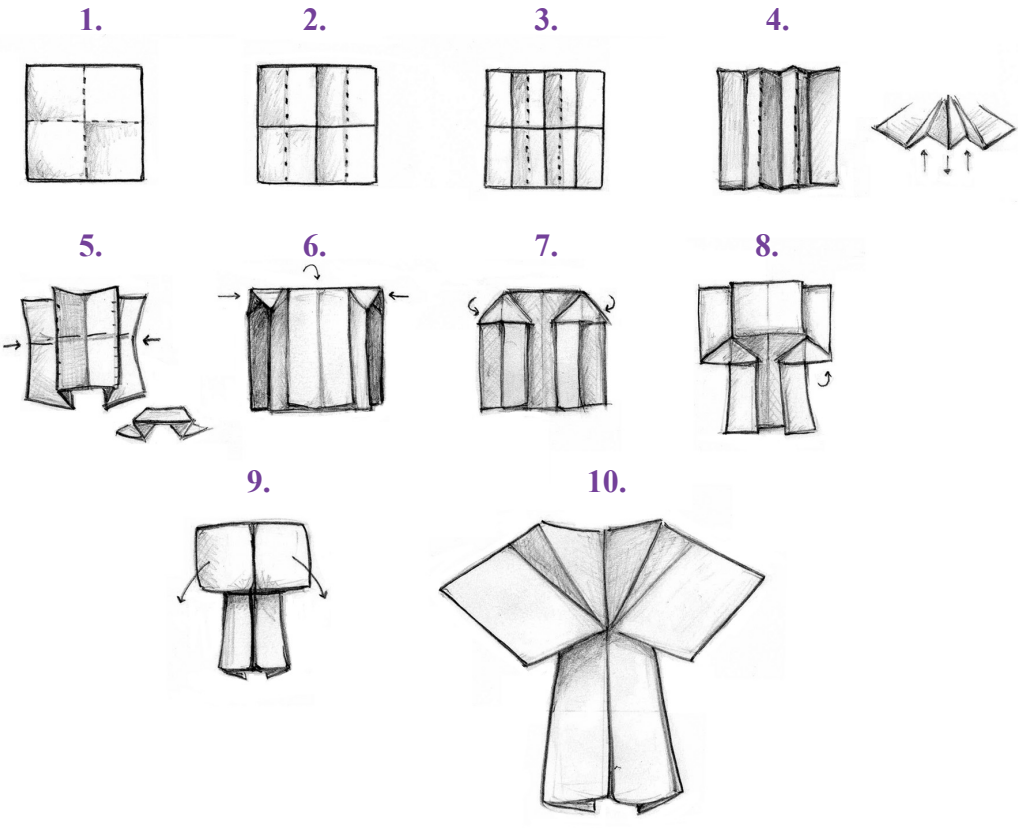
Formal Japanese silk textiles and costumes reflect an elegance achieved through complex and elaborate fabric patterns. These textiles were used by the city's affluent.

Obi
Japan, Meiji period, 1912

Uchikake Kimono
Japan, 1974

Photo Credit: Chase Photography

Make your own Japanese Kimono

Origami Instructions:

1. Make a crease through center (horizontal and vertical) of a square sheet of paper.
2. Fold the left and right sides into the center and return.
3. Make a "valley" fold half way between the center crease and the left crease. Return and repeat for the right side.
4. Pleat to center along the creases. The center crease should be "mountain" folds.
5. Fold in half from front to back.
6. Fold the front layer on both sides to the center. Squash the two top corners.
7. Fold the back flap upward along the line of the bottom of the triangles.
8. It should look like this. Turn over.
9. Swivel the flaps downward.
10. This is your kimono.