



Hatsune Miku

Vest, skirt, tie, arm sleeves, shoe covers, boots, headphones (missing), hairbands, wig, Guitar Hero guitar with Wiimote™

Stocking (Panty & Stocking with Garterbelt)

Hoop support, skirt, tank top, heart with bow (x3), leg covers, silver high-heels, Stocking wig, hairbow, white wings, halo

Traditional Yukata

Yukata, koshibimo (x2), Hanhaba obi, round hand fan with dangle, kinchaku (matsuri bag), contemporary zori, lofted flip-flops

Gothic Lolita

Contemporary hakamashita/yukata shirt, red petticoat, skirt, zippered obi belt, buckle-up combat boots, lolita mini-hat

Background:

Fukuro obis

During the Meiji era, many Western influences were brought to Japan, and this included the elements such as technological advancements and exaggerated ruffles. Over time, many styles developed from this blend of cultures, two of which are featured in this display: cosplay and lolita. Cosplay is dressing up as characters from commercial anime, video games, comics, and other media.



The first character is Hatsune Miku from the popular Japanese video game, Vocaloid, and has incorporated high technology within the garments, demonstrating how large a role technology has come to have in Japanese fashion. The second character is Stocking from the niche anime, Panty & Stocking with Garterbelt, which shows the integration of Western religion in Japanese media and clothing as well as the introduction of lolita style, which includes flounces and cute elements.

A breakaway of classic lolita is goth lolita, which uses the same elements, like lace and frills, but in edgy colors such as black and red. The outfit shown in this window also harkens back to traditional Japanese garments through the cut of the bodice and addition of a belt “obi.” The last garment is the most similar to traditional Japanese garments, a yukata, and is worn by many Japanese today for events such as matsuris (festivals) and is what many Americans may think of when someone mentions “kimono.”



Japonisme Explained: Real Japanese Fashion

Japonisme (Ja-pon-isme) is a French term used to describe the craze for Japanese art and design in the West

*Featuring pieces from
The Oris Glisson Historic Collection
Virginia Tech Japanese Cultural Association
and private collector Amy Vogelaar*

Bars, right to left:

Obimakura, obiage (yellow), obiage (floral), Hanhaba Obi, Hassun obi (for summer), Fukuro obi, Nagoya obi, Kiraki Nagoya obi, koshihimo (x2), obijime (green, white, red), himo (green with metal bi)

Podiums, top to bottom:

Decorative fans (x2), children's geta, tea set, sushi dishes, adult red zori, children's wooden geta, black tabi

The items on the hanging bars are all different types of obis and their accessories. Tying Japanese obi properly is a very complex and individualistic process. Colors, patterns, and types of obi used depend on season, the wearer, and the type of outer garments worn underneath. There are certifications that one must earn in order to style others professionally in Japan because of the needed understanding of what is appropriate for each situation as well as technical skill in tying the many layers and difficult obi knots.



Red Outfit:

Iro-Uckikake

White Outfit (inner layers to outer layers):

Susoyoke juban (missing), nagajuban, koshihimo (x2), Shiro-Uckikake featured as shiromuku, koshihimo (x2), Nagoya obi, obimakura, obiage, obijime, sting knot, fan, dagger

Accessories:

Tabi, nihongami (traditional Japanese hairstyle), hair decorations

Both of these outfits are examples of Japanese wedding attire. The iro-uckikake features a phoenix paired with a red background, both of which are believed to bring happiness and good luck to the couple. The shiromuku is entirely white and symbolizes purity, particularly in the Shinto religion, and implies that the bride is ready to take on the colors of her husband's family. This is accessorized with a fan to represent a happy future and a sword (kaiken), which is a holdover from samurai women who were given the knife on their wedding day to keep tucked in their obis for self-defense.

*A shiro-uckikake was used in place of the shiromuku outer layer for the sake of this display and the knife displayed is a plastic replica of a child's katana, rather than a futokorogatana kaiken, which is a smaller, encased blade. with no protruding features.

Male Mannequin (loaned from Japanese Cultural Society):

Hakamashita, umanori hakama, haori

Female Mannequin:

Nagajuban, koshihimo (x2), furisode, koshihimo (x2), Fukuro obi, obimakura, obiage, obijime, himo, tabi, zori

Decorations:

Hanging furisode, giant decorative fan, tea table with pillows, calligraphy brushes, mask, small hand fan, parasol (JCA)

A traditional Japanese men's outfit is called the hakama, stylized from the Chinese kù. This single outfit is composed of three garments: the hakamashita (shirt), haori (overshirt), and umanori hakama (pants), from which the name is derived. They were previously worn as everyday clothes by the samurai and are still worn today by kendo practitioners.

The women's garment hanging on display in the background is the same garment on the model, a furisode. Typically, this garment is worn by unmarried women in a more formal situation with a fukuro obi tied in an otaiko knot. Some of the more common prints found on them are florals, cranes, or scenes from Japanese life. In previous generations, these designs would be done by hand, though mass-production began during the implementation of bunmei-kaika, or the Westernization/ industrialization of Japan that began in the Meiji era.

