

Special Exhibition

*The Aesthetics
of
Edo Attire*

June 3 (Sat.) - July 17 (Mon.), 2023
Original Wing Galleries of the Tokugawa Art Museum

*Introduction
Rules of Attire*

Standards of dress for members of the warrior class served the function of indicating one's social status (rank) and identifying one's official post, as well as following conventions appropriate to the age of the wearer, the season, and the occasion.

The historical reality of dress in the daimyo households of the Edo period has been researched by examining paintings of the period, books and documents recording rituals and customs of the day, as well as various notes written in later generations. Of course, actual items of clothing and accessories that survive from the times are an important primary source as well. The Tokugawa Art Museum collection includes items that were used by various individuals, from the first Tokugawa shogun, Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543 – 1616), to the 14th- and 16th-generation heads of the Owari Tokugawa family at the end of the Edo period. This important collection provides a first-hand overview of items of attire spanning the course of the Edo period.



Kaji-baori Jacket worn in case of fire,
wave and *aoi* crest design.
Edo period, 17th c.

Wool: Black wool known as "Raseita". Europe, 17th c.
Worn by the 3rd lord of Owari, Tokugawa Tsunanari.
(exhibited from June 29 to July 17)

Attire of the Feudal Lords

In feudal times, dressing conventions were strictly observed, especially on formal occasions. For the most important ceremonies, high-ranking feudal lords, such as the heads of the Owari Tokugawa family, were required to wear the traditional court dress of the nobility, a large-sleeved long over-robe known as the *sokutai* or *ikan*. On slightly lesser occasions, they would wear the *hitatare* robe, which constituted the formal dress of the warrior class. The *kamishimo* with its matching upper vest and bottom trousers could serve a wide range of purposes, from semi-formal attire to the equivalent of a business suit of today, depending on the type of fabric it was made from and the length of the trouser hem.

The *haori* jacket, which was worn in daily life, and the *jinbaori*, or “fireman’s coat,” worn in times of war or to fight fires, were made of imported precious fabrics or adorned with eye-catching designs, reflecting the diversity of taste and style of their owners.



Sword Mountings for *Katana* and *Wakizashi* Swords, fish bone inlay, black lacquered scabbard. Edo period, 1857 and 1854. Owned by the 14th lord of Owari, Tokugawa Yoshikatsu.

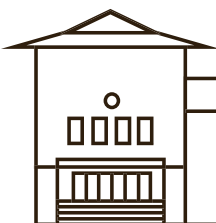
Attire of the Feudal Ladies

Like the attire of the men of the samurai class, women's attire was also carefully prescribed to reflect the social status and age of the wearer as well as the season and occasion in which it was worn. The most important ceremonies of the year were held in the first three days of the New Year, and members of the shogunal family and a limited number of powerful daimyo households were permitted to wear the layered *uchiki* robes with *hakama* trousers, which were traditional court attire of the nobility. For other occasions, such as annual festivals, formal attire consisted of a heavy *uchikake* made of figured satin (*rinzu*) with *hakama* in winter, or a light *katabira* robe made of linen with *koshimaki* robe worn around the waist, in summer.

After the ceremonies, the ladies would change into semiformal dress of crepe silk with dyed or embroidered designs, or into more casual everyday wear with stripes or woven patterns. In order to be dressed appropriately for each particular occasion, they would change several times during the day.



Hakoseko Case for paper and cosmetics, *Kochō* (a dance of the old Japanese court music) design, embroidery on gilt wool. Edo-Meiji period, 19th c. (exhibited from June 29 to July 17)



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