



SAKURA: BRIDAL KIMONO AND MASK

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The bridal kimono is a traditional garment of Japan and is used in the wedding ceremony. The bride customarily wears a white kimono for the actual ceremony and then wears a brightly colored one, usually made of extravagant silk brocades, for the reception. My intent in designing this kimono was not only to create a time-honored piece of history and tradition but also to add a new, fresh idea.

This piece is named for its inspiration, Sakura or cherry blossom. Every spring the Japanese come out of their homes and work places to enjoy this wondrous season. The kimono itself is white and extends below the typical hem. The sleeves are appropriately long since this is her last day as a single woman. From then on she will wear much shorter sleeves as an indication of her marital status.

The kimono itself is made of 100% polyester brushed satin with painted cherry blossoms on the collar and facings. The obi is worn with the bow in the back and is made out of polyester satin as well. The reception kimono is made of 100% silk organza and was hand-dyed tangerine using a bleeding method of dyeing. The mask is made of plastic using the vacuform method. The painted features of the face are typical to ancient Japan and are still used for special occasions. The white or pale face was thought to be a sign of beauty.