

Western Fashion Styles Inspired by Japanese Kimono

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Kimono is a dominant attire for Japanese people throughout history. Kimono design and textiles may have influenced from Chinese culture and history. For example, throughout a specific case, Japanese *Haniwa* figurines from the *Yayoi* period (300 BCE–300 CE) reveal women wearing short robes and wrap skirts. This ensemble is influenced from the prevalent look in China since the *Zhou* Dynasty. The Chinese set an example for Japan to follow regarding advanced civilization, imperial social hierarchy, and textile production processes. Major advances in textile production that are introduced to Japan by Chinese immigrants included silkworm farming, weaving methods, and dyeing techniques. These cultural techniques may have helped creating distinguish the traditional Japanese costume such called *Nishiki* brocade with intricate details and motifs. Although the idea to incorporate motifs could have been influenced by China, the cultural meanings and designs may have been created by natives of Japan.

Similarly, Western culture and designs have influenced Japan right before the Meiji restoration in 1868. Early in the *Meiji* Period (1867-1912), Japan was the subject of strong encouragement by the West to open its borders to the outside world (Maehara, 2003). As a result, Japanese people have gradually adopted western styled garments, and fusion of Western and Japanese cultures and designs can be seen in daily life. Over time, Japanese people refine the meaning, importance, and beauty of the kimono, into the unique and iconic style, which may be seen in modern days. Based on female worn kimono in the western paintings, western women adopted Kimono seems to start from the 17th century, such as a painting by Michiel van Musscher, 1686; a kimono adapted for European dress, 1775 (found in Rijksmuseum). Europe artists (such as, Claude Monet, James McNeill Whistler, Vicent van Gogh, and George Hendrik Breitner) have many pieces influenced Japanese decorative arts with western female worn Japanese kimono or reformed kimono. Among these art pieces, Breitner created a series of 13 paintings of a young girl wearing a kimono. This study is to learning Western fashion styles adopted Japanese kimono elements by using Friedman's theory (2003) to examine collected design objects by transforming less desirable situations to preferred fashions to analyze motifs, silhouette, color selection, embroidery, construction, and fit.

A total of 250 traditional Japanese kimono and 135 western fashions images reflecting Japanese kimono or cultures are collected from numerous sources: museum visits, fashion magazines, Internet, newspapers, magazines, films, TV shows, student fashion shows, and websites. Designs elements in western fashions can be found in Japanese kimono elements, such as: Textile Pattern Design (Motifs), Garment Pattern Design, Colors, Embroidery Methods, Silhouette, Line, Construction Methods, Utility, and Fit. Although both male and female modern clothes contained kimono influenced design are found, male modern clothing with kimono elements is limited, which means much less objects are found compared to female objects. In addition, many female outfits are significantly influenced by Japanese kimono design both runway and mass production. Throughout the 19th, 20th, and 21th centuries, the Western fashion

is portrayed an influence of Japanese kimono. An analysis of contemporary western fashion design with elements of Japanese kimono provides exclusive examples of cross-cultural design. These western fashions images reflecting Japanese kimono or cultures are analyzed as cases of the creative design process, and/or how design elements can be organized in new ways.

One full length dress influenced the Japanese kimono in the 19th century (fashion objects for female) is also examined. Very few western fashions inspired by Japanese kimono items and commercial mail-order catalogues are found during 20th century. Compared to the earlier period, many well-known designers (such as Christian Dior, 2007; Zuhair Murard, 2011; Dries van Noton, 2012; Alexander McQueen, 2011; and Armani Privé 2011) presented kimono influenced styles objects in a runway collection presentation and movie costume designs. Kimono influenced designs are only adopted by famous Japanese designers such as Kenzo Takada and Issey Miyake, but also current Japanese designers adopted Kimono textile to create their western fashion styles. There are about three types of themes: a) Kimono-inspired street fashion in *Harajyuku* area, b) Kimono-inspired garments by Japanese designers: *Yoshiki Mino* 2017; *Keiichiro Yuki* 2017; *Yumiko Arimoto* 2017; *Takafumi Tsuruta* 2017, and c) Kimono-inspired garments in costume designers' shops for commercial selling ready to wear items. Very few men's wear adopted Japanese kimono elements represent by American designer, Thom Browne. Surprisingly, he creates more than 30 styles; not only adopted traditional Japanese kimono patterns but also silhouette and accessories lines in the Spring 2016. Based on this research, female modern clothing designs are found more than male clothing designs, which are influenced by Japanese kimono design elements. For example, male clothing designs that are influenced by kimono design are only found in a few designers. This may indicate that many female outfits are significantly influenced by Japanese kimono design both runway and mass production. This project is to learning **Japanese kimono** in Western fashion styles from Medias by using Friedman's theory (2003) to examine collected design images by transforming less desirable situations to preferred current styles.

A part of a designer's role is to create new ideas and product designs. To this end, a designer engages in creativity and the creative process. Although there are a number of definitions for creativity, one definition describes creativity as the process of taking existing elements and rearranging them in new ways (Strickfaden, Stafiniak, & Terzin, 2015). Additionally, the creative process may be sparked and enhanced by a focus, idea, or inspiration (Friedman, 2003). Designers can glean an inspiration from numerous sources, such as the surrounding environment, social factors, history, or cultures (Cliffe, 2017). Kimono inspired elements have expanded and can be broadly seen in the global fashion scene.

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