



## Eastern Inspiration

For a slice of authentic Japanese culture right here in Rome, look no further than Antichi Kimono. **Tiffany Parks** reports.

Dating back to the Edo period in the late 8th century, the kimono is a Japanese icon, originally reserved as a garment for the upper classes, only to become the main item of clothing for rich and poor, male and female, and eventually inexorably linked with the figure of the geisha. The kimono has been an object of fascination for westerners since Japanese culture became chic in the late 1800s, thanks in part to impressionist artists such as Monet, Renoir, and Van Gogh. The garment evolved over time—initially they were simply known as *kosode* (small sleeves) or *osode* (long sleeves), depending on the size of, not the actual sleeves, but rather the armholes—from simple, functional robes to status symbols of the finest silk, richly embroidered in intricate and elaborate patterns.

The mystique of this legendary garment was the catalyst for a delightful boutique located in the heart of Rome's historic center. Inspired by the beauty and elegance of Japanese culture

in general and the kimono in particular, owner Gloria Gobbi opened **Antichi Kimono**, an elegant shop that combines her two greatest passions: Japan and design, specifically of contemporary jewelry, accessories, and clothing. In regard to jewelry design, Gobbi draws from her own experience designing contemporary jewelry in the '80s and '90s, utilizing unusual materials such as acrylic plastics, multi-layered plexiglass, metal, and micro-mosaics, for Fiorucci, Jean-Paul Gauthier, and other important labels.

The atelier, as its name suggests, produces Japanese kimonos made from original fabrics from various countries. These same precious fabrics are also used to make accessories such as handbags, belts, bustiers, shrugs, and slip-on shoes. In addition to textiles, the shop also repurposes unexpected materials such as newspapers and soda can tabs to create original handicrafts.

> **Via di Monserrato, 43b. Tel 0668135876. [antichikimono.com](http://antichikimono.com)**