

Kimono  
(untitled)

Issey Miyake  
1995



Kimonomantel, 1995  
Entwurf: Issey Miyake  
Herstellung: Issey Miyake Inc., Tokio, JP  
Material/Technik: Polyestergerewebe, plissiert, mit Applikationen  
125 x 140 cm  
Donation: Erika Ouie  
Eigentum: Museum für Gestaltung Zürich / ZHdK

However futuristic the oversize kimono with vivid color accents may seem, its inspiration in the traditional Japanese garment is still perfectly evident. Its creator Issey Miyake (1938–2022) has stated, “I like to work in the spirit of the kimono. Between the body and the fabric there exists only an approximate contact.”

The traditions of Issey Miyake’s homeland have had a lasting influence on his designs. The polyester plissé coat, on the inside of which are sewn colorful appliqués, takes up attributes of the kimono—the Japanese garment par excellence. Nevertheless, it isn’t a kimono in the traditional sense, which, as the epitome of beauty, has always been subject to a strict code taking into account the season it is worn, the age and gender of the person wearing it, as well their social class. Miyake tried to reduce the costs of his clothing by using polyester and modern technology, and in 1988 offered affordable everyday fashion with the introduction of his *Pleats Please* collection. Like the kimono, virtually all of his pieces are constructed out of flat surfaces and only become three-dimensional when worn. The collection *132 5*, made of recycled polyester, is based on the origami technique, in which

every single (1) piece of clothing unfurls into a three-dimensional (3) garment as soon as it is released from its two-dimensional (2) folded state. The numeral 5 represents the temporary state of being worn. As with his fellow countrymen Yohji Yamamoto and Rei Kawakubo (Comme des Garçons), Miyake refused to follow Parisian dictates of fashion and its existing beauty ideal—the form-fitting silhouette. In 1997, Miyake retired as a designer, and in 2007 he opened the museum and design research center 21\_21 Design Sight in Tokyo. (Sabine Flaschberger)

<https://www.eguide.ch/en/objekt/ohne-titel-22/>

Museum  
für Gestaltung  
Zürich

Zürcher  
Hochschule der  
Künste

museum-gestaltung.ch  
eGuide.ch  
eMuseum.ch