

Japan to Alameda

Takeno Nakata's Furisode Kimono



When she was a 10-year-old in Japan, Takeno Nakata was taught to weave silk thread from silkworms by her mother.

Eventually, Takeno wove the silk that became her Furisode kimono. The colorful Furisode is worn by the unmarried to attract a suitor.

Married at 19, she arrived in Alameda by 1920. We don't if the kimono was in her hands before her marriage was arranged to Tomoshige Nakata. It's possible the only time it was worn was when her two daughters, Mary (Tomita) and Grace (Uriu) posed in the kimono decades later.



In 1997, Takeno Nakata died in Palo Alto, CA, leaving behind her hand made jewelry, embroidery, woodcuts and ceramics.

But most of all, she left behind a symbol of Japanese society that we can marvel at today, knowing that the future of such things, like time itself, is fleeting but for the moment of its creation. Long live the kimono, our memory of such wonderful things and the artists who created them.

Japan to Alameda

Takeno Nakata's

Furisode Kimono



When she was a 10-year-old in Japan, Takeno Nakata was taught to weave silk thread from silkworms by her mother.

Eventually, Takeno wove the silk that became her Furisode kimono. The colorful Furisode is worn by the unmarried to attract a suitor.

Married at 19, she arrived in Alameda by 1920. We don't if the kimono was in her hands before her marriage was arranged to Tomoshige Nakata. It's possible the only time it was worn was when her two daughters, Mary (Tomita) and Grace (Uriu) posed in the kimono decades later.



In 1997, Takeno Nakata died in Palo Alto, CA, leaving behind her hand made jewelry, embroidery, woodcuts and ceramics.

But most of all, she left behind a symbol of Japanese society that we can marvel at today, knowing that the future of such things, like time itself, is fleeting but for the moment of its creation. Long live the kimono, our memory of such wonderful things and the artists who created them.