

## **Unknown Japanese**

*Negoro Natsume Tea Caddy*, 19th century

Edo period (1615-1868)

Red and black lacquer on wood

Private Collection, courtesy of Erik Thomsen

## **Suzuki Mutsumi 鈴木睦美 (1942-2009)**

*Sparrow Tea Caddy*, 1980s

Showa era (1926-1989)

Black and gold lacquer on wood

Private Collection, courtesy of Erik Thomsen

*Young Girl's Kimono with Floral Motif*, 1920s

Taisho (1912-1926) to early Showa era (1926-1989)

Colors on silk

The longer sleeves, smaller dimensions, and bright all-over pattern of this kimono indicate that it is for a child, perhaps a girl of about ten years old. The purple color, restricted to persons of imperial or high rank during the 19th century and earlier, became fashionable among the general population in the Meiji and Taisho periods, as imported chemical dyes made this saturated hue easier to achieve.

## *Woman's Komon Kimono with Maple Leaves Motif*

Showa era (1926-1989)

Colors on silk

This kimono's bright overall pattern and longer sleeves make it suitable for a young adult, unmarried woman. The stencil-dyed pattern of maples leaves would be fashionable to wear not at peak autumn color, but rather in anticipation of the season, just before the leaves turn and begin to fall. The vibrant orange of the inner lining shows just a bit at the hem.

*Woman's Woven Kimono with "Chinese Arabesque"  
(Karakusa) and Flower Design*

Showa era (1926-1989)

Silk with woven pattern

Kimono with woven designs, rather than dyed, are much less formal. Traditionally, a kimono like this might be worn out on social occasions or to a tea ceremony class. The deep blue color was extremely popular in the Edo period (1615-1868), when sumptuary laws prohibited the use of brighter colors and patterns.