

# PRESS RELEASE

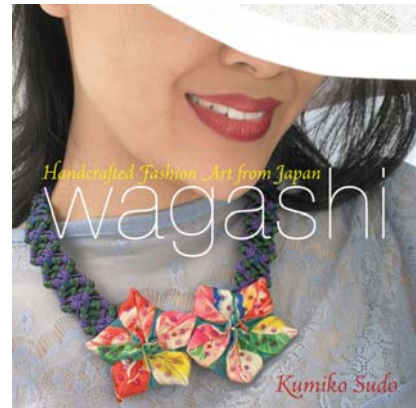
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## Wagashi

### Handcrafted Fashion Art from Japan

#### A Little Something Sweet

Divine wisps of red pucker from ancient porcelain blues, earthly greens, and sweet lavender: delicate fabric is folded, turned, then folded again to form stunning flowers that dangle from Japanese *kumihimo* braids, fastened at the nape of a woman's slender neck.



This eye-catching necklace is just one of the 20 remarkable art-in-miniature projects offered by celebrated handcraft artist Kumiko Sudo in her new book **Wagashi: Handcrafted Fashion Art from Japan**.

Like *wagashi*, the intricate Japanese candies grandly served during a traditional Tea Ceremony, each project in **Wagashi** is a tiny work of art. Sudo's signature style shines in 20 fashion and home-dec accessories; unique fabric jewelry and delicate mini-purses reflect the Eastern influence of Sudo's Japanese upbringing, yet they take a colorful twist that is decidedly her own.



**Wagashi: 978-1-933308-14-2 / \$27.95 / deluxe softcover / color / 160 pages**

Confected from silks and cottons, lined with soft felt, and accented with pretty beading or Japanese-style braiding, each makes a gorgeous embellishment to any fashion art collection. Every project is inexpensive to make, requiring only tiny amounts of fabric, cord, and beads. Adorn a gift box with Bugaku Drum or Bell Fruit Charms, or give the chic Periwinkle Pinwheel or Dandelion purse as a gift in itself, and delight your friends with “a little something sweet.”

- 20 Unique hand-crafted projects, ideal for gifts
- Japanese knotwork, *kumihimo* braiding, Delica beading, and fabric origami
- Color drawings and step-by-step directions
- Full-color photographs throughout
- Sudo’s attractive watercolor drawings introduce each chapter



No other book so beautifully combines fabric art, beading, Japanese *kumihimo* braiding, and decorative knotting.



**About the Author**—Japanese fiber artist, Kumiko Sudo is known internationally for her books and her quilts. Sudo’s work is in several prestigious public and private collections throughout the United States, including the Museum of American Folk Art in New York City. She has written several acclaimed quilting and sewing books, including *Kake-Jiku*, *Kokoro no Te*, *Flower Origami*, *Folded Flowers*, *Omiyage*, *Fabled Flowers*, and *East Quilts West*. Sudo lives in Eugene, Oregon.



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## Kumiko Sudo's Fingers Make Fabric Magic



While the fabric delights featured her new book **Wagashi: HandCrafted Fashion Art from Japan** might make you think of the ideal lifestyle displays of high-end retailers like *Anthropologie*, Kumiko Sudo confesses that her inspiration is entirely natural. Stepping out through the wide glass doors of her home studio, internationally acclaimed quilter and fiber artist

Kumiko Sudo begins each day with a quiet stroll through her garden. Situated in the rolling hills of Oregon but styled after the tiered flower gardens of her native Japan, this is Sudo's retreat and her inspiration. Sudo is celebrated world-wide for her quilts that uniquely fuse Eastern aesthetics with Western traditions. One of a select group of artists who have made a major contribution to the craft of quilting, her influence is evident in quilt shows and in museum collections all over the United States. She designs her own signature line of fabric with *In the Beginning* fabric company, based in Seattle, WA. In **Wagashi**, Sudo turns her attention to smaller "tea crafts", intended as unique gifts made from the heart.

Sudo was born and raised in Tokyo, Japan. She credits her father, a professional photographer, with her early artistic training. Yet it is from her mother, an expert in the traditional arts of Japan, including *ikebana*, *origami*, and needlework, that Sudo inherits the deep, abiding appreciation of color, form, and texture that informs her work. Childhood summers spent with her aunt in the mountains of Kamakura awakened a passion for the natural world that is the connecting thread through all of Sudo's creative endeavors.

Sudo began her training in fashion design and millinery in Tokyo. Though it was most unusual for young women of her background to seek experiences outside the confines of Japanese domestic life, Sudo immersed herself in the study of fine arts, traveling all over the world to view museum collections of paintings and sculpture. Serendipity—in this case, catching sight of a beautiful double-wedding ring quilt in an antique shop in Palo Alto, CA--led Sudo to create her own art-in-fabric, blending her rich cultural and artistic heritage into the American tradition of quilting.

Back in Tokyo, Sudo rapidly gained notice as a teacher. Her frequent appearances as an expert in arts and crafts on Japanese national public television gained her a dedicated following throughout Japan. Motivated by a desire to stretch her creative wings, she returned to the United States in 1985.

She settled in the heart of Berkley, CA,—a haven for emerging artists—and her work began to take flight. In a blaze of color and cloth, the large-scale quilts she made during this period reflect an exhilarating mood of creative freedom. In astonishingly bold colors and fluid patterns, Sudo’s pieces introduced American quilters to the startling use of contrasts and the extraordinary delicacy of touch that is also evident in the artistic traditions of Japan.

Today, Kumiko Sudo is an accomplished artist, teacher, and author. Her work is a part of several prestigious public and private collections throughout the United States, including the Museum of American Folk Art in New York City. She has published ten books in the United States, in addition to fifteen early works in the Japanese language. Through her quilts, Sudo has been instrumental in bringing Japanese traditions and techniques to the attention of American designers. Her remarkable series of flower quilts as well as several of the projects in **Wagashi**, for instance, apply the principles of Japanese origami—the folding of paper into intricate shapes—to fabric, for a miraculous three-dimensional effect. With a flawless sense of color and line, Sudo chooses from among thousands of fabrics in her studio “stash,” often cutting into antique Japanese kimonos or obis to find just the right color or pattern. Over the years, her successes have given rise to a surge of interest in Japanese fabrics, motifs, and notions. Through workshops in her Oregon home, she maintains close ties with her homeland. Visiting teachers train with her and return to Japan to share her methods and her aesthetic sensibility with a new generation of Japanese quilters. Her best hours are spent in quiet seclusion. As she cares for her garden, plays piano, or paints in watercolors, her creative energies are rejuvenated.

With her maturity as an artist comes a simplicity that defines Kumiko Sudo’s artistic experience. Flowers are a recurring theme in her work, connecting her with the natural world. For Sudo, the unfolding of a new blossom to the morning sun can inspire a completely new series of designs. Each day, she returns from her morning walk regenerated, ready for new creative challenges.

**Kumiko Sudo’s books, published by Breckling Press, include:**

*Wagashi: HandCrafted Fashion Art from Japan*, 8-1/2” x 8-1/2”, 160 pp,  
deluxe softcover, \$27.95

*Kake-Jiku: Images of Japan in Applique, Fabric Origami, and Sashiko*, 8-1/2” x 8-1/2”, 144 pp,  
deluxe softcover, \$29.95

*Kokoro no Te: Handmade Treasures from the Heart*, 8-1/2” x 8-1/2”, 96 pp, casebound, \$27.95

*Flower Origami: Fabric Flowers from Simple Shapes*, 9” x 9”, deluxe softcover, 176 pp, \$29.95

*Flower Days: An Origami-Inspired Creativity Journal*, 6-1/2” x 6-1/2” case with wraparound binding,  
144 pp, \$15.95

*Folded Flowers: Fabric Origami with a Twist of Silk Ribbon*, 8-12” x 9-3/4”, deluxe softcover,  
192pp, \$29.95