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COMMUNICATION
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obi

The obi 帯 is one of the most sophisticated forms of the sash. Its significance extends far beyond the realm of clothing. Over the centuries, its width, texture, color, and method of tying have signified age, social status, marital status, or even the ceremonial occasion. The knot at the back constitutes a true visual language. The obi is also a space for aesthetic invention where patterns inspired by nature, poetry, the seasons, or beliefs are displayed. It represents an interesting paradox: while it is a constraining element that holds the garment in place, it is also one of the primary vehicles for creativity. In the global history of costume, few objects have concentrated so many social and artistic meanings into a single strip of fabric. Its study opens up themes of weaving, the body, social representation, and the transmission of craftsmanship.