



KU AMBIANCE



## RETRO-GLAMOUR HAIR ORNAMENTS (*Kanzashi*)

*Kanzashi* are hair ornaments originally used in traditional Japanese hairstyles. *Kanzashi* became popular in the 1700's when artisans began to produce fine products for wealthy patrons. Nowadays, *kanzashi* are most often worn by brides and professional geisha, or adepts in Japanese tea ceremony and ikebana. However, there is currently a revival among young Japanese women who wish to add an elegant touch to their business attire. *Kanzashi* are fabricated from a wide range of materials such as lacquered wood, gold and silver plated metal, and special resins. In fact, early bakelite resin *kanzashi* are extremely collectible. *Kanzashi* allow wearers a fun approach to retro-glamour styles, evoking old Hollywood class with a modern sensibility.

Ku Ambiance *kanzashi* are each hand-made by Toshio Arakawa and his son, Youhei Arakawa who represent the second and third generation in a family of resin artists. This was a craft begun back in the 1920's by Youhei's grandfather who made art pieces of bakelite jewelry by hand.



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