

# *Yoshi's New Purse*



Shadows obscure a portion of Yoshi's face in the photo above, but it doesn't matter because my focus was on the purse. Very incidental is the front-yard *yuzu* bush next to her. Dozens of *yuzu* fruit, a sort of Japanese lime but more astringent, are ripening, even over-ripening here. Japanese love them. But back to Yoshi's purse, which is blown up at left to provide a better look. It is the oddest-shaped purse I've ever seen. It is designed to fit snugly at her side, with crescents for her arm and hip. A bank teller the other day asked her to pose for a snapshot, so he could show his girlfriend this hard-to-describe purse. Yoshi bought the purse in Boston at a Beacon Hill shop called "Keiko, Fine Japanese Handcraft." It was one of those minimalist shops. You walk in and not much is there, but everything is for sale at high prices. The shop owner, Keiko Fukai, said the purse was made by a woman in Kyoto.

**Jackson Sellers, Lake Forest, Calif., Dec. 2005**