

## Traditional arts and crafts related to Fukuoka and Hakata



### Hakata Hariko (Papier-Mache)

Hakata Hariko is folk artwork which has simple but gentle texture of paper with vivid colors. Layers of Japanese washi paper are pasted over clay molds with glue made of sea weed and left to dry. After the glue is dry, the mold is cut in half and the layered washi is taken to the finishing process of coloring. The entire production process is carried out by hand according to the traditional method, therefore each Hariko is uniquely different. Hakata Hariko is loved by the locals in Hakata who also love festivals and celebrations.



### Hakata Basami (Scissors)

It is believed that Hakata Basami scissors originated from scissors called To-basami, brought by a trader from China to Hakata during the Kamakura period. Before the war, the town boasted 20 scissors workshops at its peak, a number which of late has declined to only one. Virgin metal is heated at the 1000 degree Celsius to form an original shape and bond with steel. Making a pair of scissors involves almost 100 processes such as "hammering", "sharpening", "etching" and "quenching." The entire process is completed by hand. The scissors have gained high reputation because of their ability of cutting and durability. Another feature is the two symbols - "Nino-ji" and "Hishi-mon" - that are only allowed to engrave on Hakata Scissors.



### Hakata Magemono (Woodenware)

There are many household goods made by using the Hakata-magemono technique, including lunch boxes or utensils for tea ceremony. As for its origin, there are a number of stories. Magemono became widely produced during the Edo period. From the ancient time, they were dedicated to Hakozaki Shrine as ritual tools.

To make magemono, a wooden board made of sugi (Japanese cedar) or hinoki (Japanese cypress) is boiled to soften fibers of wood, then the board is banded to form a circular shape. Binding it together with a bark from cherry trees is the last process of magemono-making. It is light and portable because no metals such as nails are used, and it has the ability to maintain adequate humidity.



### Hakata Koma (Top)

About 400 years ago, Hakata koma was created as the first koma in Japan. They first came to Japan via China about 1,300 years ago as a toy for kids. It is believed that the root of Hakata koma was To-koma which was made out of bamboo. The most unique feature of the Hakata koma is the iron core which is inserted into the wooden tops. These cores provided greater stability and ensured longer spin time at high speed. Such ability made it possible for people to move spinning tops from hand to hand. This gave rise to acrobatic top-spinning performances in which performers are balancing a spinning top on the edge of a sword or an open fan. Not only are they evaluated as craft, but Hakata koma has also been designated as an intangible cultural asset by Fukuoka Prefecture.



### Multi Glass

Multi glass is made of multiple layers of colored glass. This craft was the first Japanese glass that was awarded the grand prize for Japanese glass art at the Paris World Fair in 1937.

Most of standard glass use a second color which is added to the main color, while Multi Glass uses multiple colored glasses and layered them. Each glassworks has different colors and shapes. Their appearances change depending on the light reflections coming from different angles.



### Hakata Okiage

Hakata okiage is a fine craft that is made by cutting thick paper into various shapes such as flowers and human, then they are covered in cotton and wrapped in gold brocade and silk cloth. It is said to have begun at court in the Edo period and then gradually became widespread among the general public. Many women used to make Hakata okiage as it was considered as one of basic skills for women. However, with the decline in the number of craftsman only two persons are remaining.



### Hakata Ya (Bamboo arrow)

To make this kind of arrow, it can take as long as one year. The entire process of treating the bamboo from cutting to drying, whittling, and sharpening is all made by hand. Alignment of nodes, weight and thickness is the most difficult process that requires craftsman's expertise. Eagle and hawk wing feathers are still used for the highest quality arrows. Its dignified and elegant style attracts a lot of people.

Not only in battle fields, the arrow was also used to pray for safety of the family and good health as it was believed to have the power to ward off evil spirits. Nowadays, it is more widely used as ornament.

## HAKATA TRADITIONAL CRAFT AND DESIGN MUSEUM

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Breathing New Life into Tradition  
HAKATA TRADITIONAL CRAFT  
AND DESIGN MUSEUM  
〔 Permanent Exhibition Room 〕



## Permanent Exhibition Room

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Hakata Ningyo(doll) and "Hakata Ori" (woven textile), the representative traditional craftwork of Fukuoka that have been handed through the ages by their craftsmen.

Here at Hakata Traditional Craft and Design Museum, we hope to introduce you to and make you feel close to excellent craft items in Fukuoka and Hakata along with their artisan's skills that have been inherited and evolved from generation to generation.



Description is on the right side.

# Hakata Ningyo

# Hakata Ori



## 1 Hakata Ori Production Process

The production process of Hakata Ori begins from the process of designing called "isho," which requires rich sensitivity, and continues to a dyeing process called "senshoku" which must be done with uncompromised craftsmanship.

Dyed threads move to warping (seikei), the process where dyed threads are counted and the length of thread is set. Then the next step is to prepare for weaving (hatajikake). Given that as many as 7,000 of ultra-fine silk threads are used, placing an individual thread on the loom does require a lot of care. After weaving called "seishoku," each piece of textile is finished. After passing inspection, a woven cloth is finally allowed to be called Hakata Ori.



## 2 Hakata Ori Kenjo Design

"Hakata kenjo gara" is a pattern consisting of stylized designs of Buddhist tools known as dokko and hanazara along with a pattern of thick and thin stripes symbolizing the parents and children. The pattern is used to protect people from evil spirits and bring peace and prosperity in the household

In the "Goshiki kenjo", 5 colors are used by employing an ancient technique of dyeing. Each color signifies different meaning: purple (virtue), blue (peace), red (happiness and prosperity), navy blue (fidelity) and yellow (the power of the emperor). All these meaning are said to have been originated from the five virtues of Confucianism (Righteousness, Benevolence, Propriety, Wisdom, and Fidelity). This also shows that how uniquely Chinese-derived culture has evolved in Japan.



## 3 Young Artists' Hakata Ori

Hakata-ori Textile Industry Association established Hakata Ori Development College in 2006. Not only does the college focuses on fostering new generation who inherits craftsmanship of Hakata Ori, but it also nurtures talents with the ability to work in the world. Here, works of college graduates are being displayed. The manufacturing process is all carried out by hand. The work is the fruit of uncompromising time and effort of next generation of Hakata Ori craftsmen who are committed to maintain traditional textile that has fascinated the world.

## 4 Contemporary Works

Hakata Ori is produced by using thousands of warp threads that is tightly interwoven with weft threads. Hakata Ori was sought after as Japanese kimono sashes called obi because its durability and tensile strength allow obi to remain tight once fixed while still being easy to undo. To introduce the unique value of Hakata Ori and make people feel closer to this traditional craft, textiles are used in a wide variety of products according to the changes of modern lifestyle.

Through trial and error such as altering the thickness of individual threads, artists are making a tireless effort to continuously express delicate patterns and a smooth texture while pursuing the unlimited potential of Hakata Ori.



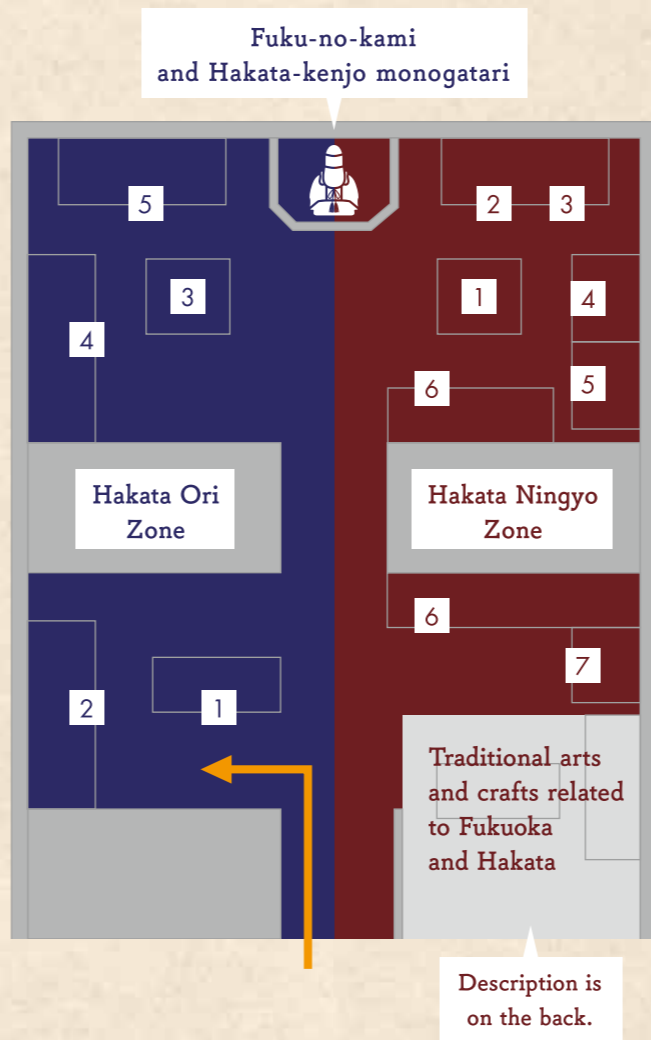
## 5 Prize-Winning Works at Hakata Ori Exhibition

Every November, Hakata Ori Exhibition, the largest Hakata Ori event, is held at Jotenji Zen Temple where new pieces of Hakata Ori are displayed. At this historical exhibition, which has been held more than 110 years, thorough selection is conducted by people from Japan's major textile hubs and cultural figures. There is also Hakata Ori New Collection Exhibition, which takes place in Tokyo every April. Excellent works that were awarded Prime Minister Prize and other prestigious prizes are on display here.



# Hakata Ori

Traditional crafts from Sung Dynasty of China evolved into artwork.



# Hakata Ningyo

"Bijin Mono" (Beautiful Lady), "Warabe Mono" (Children), and "Musha Mono" (Samurai) World-class crafts.



## 1 Edo Period

- The Miraculous Seated Statue of Yakushi Nyorai -

The statue of Yakushi Nyorai exhibited here was placed in a small altar in the bamboo forest located in Hakata Ward. In 2001, an investigation prompted by a request from residents was conducted and it was found that the statue was the work of the fourth generation of Soshichi Masaki, the official potter for the Kuroda family. The altar collapsed due to an earthquake, but the statue itself miraculously remained undamaged since it had already been donated to Hakata Doll Commerce and Industry Cooperative Association.



## 2 From Beginning to Middle of the Meiji Period

At the beginning of the Meiji period, doll molds were made of clay and had only front and back pieces. From the end of the Meiji period, making doll with a plaster cast became common and this method has been employed until today. Using plaster was the epoch-making in the history of Hakata Ningyo. During the Meiji period, there was growing popularity of iki-ningyō (realistic life-size doll) and a large number of such dolls were created. They were primarily used in special occasions like festivals and exhibitions, therefore most of them were discarded afterwards. This iki-ningyō, with its head and body integrally attached, the excellent design as well as the highest formal beauty, is a rare masterpiece.



## 3 Showa Post War Period

During the war period, production of traditional crafts was strictly controlled. Production and sale of certain artworks, including Hakata dolls, were partially permitted for the purpose of preserving traditional techniques. However, in 1945, Hakata dolls were no longer allowed to be made or sold. The export value of Hakata dolls between 1951 and 1957 was larger than domestic value of sales. It was also the period during which a lot of dolls that employed old Japanese folk life as motif were also made and mainly sold to the US army.

## 4 End of the Meiji Period

During this period, artists explored new techniques with the hope of infusing western realism into their dolls. Doll artists began studying various subjects from plastering, human body, paintings, and color scheme to a method of dissolving colors. At the beginning of the Taisho period they even attended workshops which included human anatomy. It was during this period that the style of Hakata dolls dramatically modernized. Refined artistry transformed Hakata doll from simple clay doll to works of art.



## 5 Showa Period

- Kojima Yoichi Kabuki-mono Dolls -

Yoichi Kojima, the master doll maker, decided to become a Hakata ningyo-shi (doll maker) at the age of 14 and got an apprenticeship with a workshop. Inspired by the Kabuki which Yoichi very much loved, his talent bloomed in his kabuki-mono dolls which distinctively reflect his unique style of expression. "Kabuki-mono" became a synonym for Yoichi ningyo. He would finish his work very fast so people called him "Meijin (master) Yoichi." At the same time, he was willing to pay any amount of money to hone his skills, and his lavish spending became to be called "Yoichi barai (payment)."



## 6 Showa Period

- Dolls Made by Inherited Techniques -

As growing skills of each doll maker were sublimated into their own unique style that is reflected on their work, sophisticated techniques turned Hakata doll into "Art Doll." In the postwar period, various genres emerged and artists tried to make their dolls more realistic. Exhibits are works of doll makers who have been pursuing their own artistic touch while keeping traditional craftsmanship that has been passed down for generations. After more than 400 years when dolls were first made, simple clay dolls were transformed into such artworks. You can see the accomplishments made by artisans who worked hard to develop new forms of creative expression even during turbulent times.



## 7 Present generation

Dolls displayed at Hakata Dolls New Collection Exhibition

New Collection of Hakata Doll Exhibition is the most highly regarded event as it has been held since 1949. Every April, the exhibition takes place in Tokyo. The Prime Minister Prize and other prizes are determined through rigorous selection conducted by buyers from department stores and experts. This exhibition serves as the platform to introduce attractiveness of Hakata dolls to nationwide from the metropolitan area. Every year a returning home exhibition is also held in Fukuoka following Tokyo.



## Collaboration between "Hakata Ori" and "Hakata Ningyo" "Fuku-no-Kami(God of Good Fortune)" and "Hakata-kenjo monogatari(History of Kenjo Hakata-ori)"

### Fuku-no-kami

A 70-cm-tall Hakata doll made by Hakata doll maker, Shinkyō Nakamura. The god, who appears in Okura-ryū kyogen play, is impressed with the reverence of the people who worship the god every year, so the god joyfully sings, dances, and then gives worshippers the secret of happiness and leaves. We hope this statue will bring good luck and fortune to visitors.

### Hakata-kenjo monogatari

The root of Hakata ori is expressed by three pieces of textiles. With the blue color and the design of waves depicting the "Genkai-Nada" (Genkai Sea), these motifs represent the textiles and Buddhism that were introduced from China.

