

Dear all,

Last year we started great new projects with interesting artisans in the Tohoku region in Japan. On 12 February, you will see the results at **ambiente** at Messe Frankfurt.

Please find below some of our latest products including new designs for Naruko style and Sakunami Style. The ornament will reveal natural gift from beautiful forest in Japan. We are very happy that you like our new products.

For more information or to schedule a meetup please contact us.
We hope to see you there and Have a safe journey to Frankfurt.

ambiente at Messe Frankfurt Exhibition Halle 11.0 Loft Stand n° D40
Opening times 12-15.2.2016 : 9 am - 6 pm / 16.2.2016 : 9 am - 5 pm
<http://ambiente.messefrankfurt.com>

traditional kokeshi dolls : Modern crafts

They have been each carefully made by skilled craftsmen in the northeast of Japan since the Edo period. We offer kokeshi for interior in various natural, high-quality woods such as dogwood, maple, cherry, pear, boxwood, pagoda tree, Ilex macropoda and zelkova.



Kokeshi Dolls originated in North-East Japan as wooden toys for children. They began being produced towards the end of the Edo period (1603–1868) by woodwork artisans, called Kiji-shi, who normally made bowls, trays and other tableware by using a lathe. They began to make small dolls in the winter to sell to visitors who came to bathe in the many hot springs near their villages, which was believed to be a cure for the demands of a strenuous agricultural lifestyle.

The popularity of Kokeshi dolls began to spread to other areas, so woodworkers from other hot spring resorts imitated those skills and made their own Kokeshi dolls to sell as souvenirs. They then gradually established their own Kokeshi style. Kokeshi dolls that are made today can be classified into 11 types: Tsugaru, Nanbu, Kijiyama, Naruko, Hijiori, Yamagata, Zao-takayu, Sakunami, Tsuchiyu, Togatta and Yajiro. Kokeshi dolls are very simple in design, originally made on hand powered lathes.



At that time the woodturner would use an ancient hand powered lathe with the help of his wife. It required careful teamwork, while the wife pulled a rope to turn the lathe, the husband planed the wood. As time went by, the kick wheel appeared, it could be used without any assistance. This lathe was used from the middle of the Meiji-era (1868~1912) to the early part of the Showa-era (1926~1989). Today, there is an electric lathe, which dramatically increases productivity. Kokeshi artisans make their own planes and carving tools and have become knowledgeable in forging metals.



The basic design of a Kokeshi doll features a cylindrical body with a round head. Each doll is then delicately hand-painted by the craftsman, so that each work is a reflection of the characteristics of the person who made it. There is a signature on the bottom of the doll so that it is possible to know who made it. Because traditional kokeshi represents so unique climate and lifestyle of its production area in the Northeast Japan, it will make you to visit there.

About us

Japan + collaboration + laboratory

Association nippon collaboratory was established in 2011 in order to discover and present various urban traditional culture from Japan. We are based in Tokyo and Sendai-city and our business structure offers a global partnership of international trading mainly in Tokyo, Paris, New York and San Francisco. Our flagship product is the traditional kokeshi, handmade dolls from the Tohoku region.

Our mission is to continue exploring the possibility to follow traditional and sophisticated Japanese urban culture and products by passing its rich history down into the world with branding, marketing, design and careful planning strategy.

