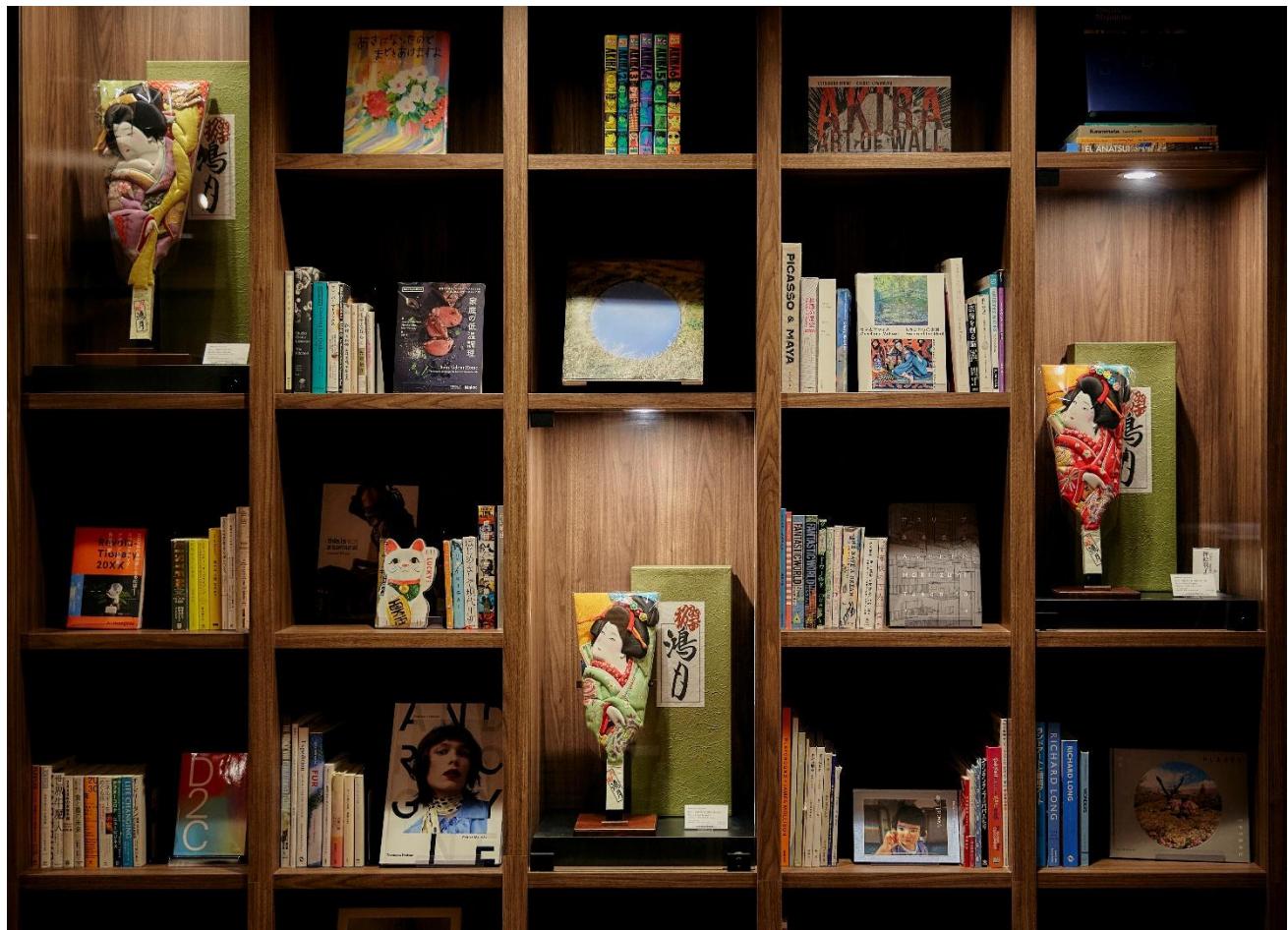




"Tale of Artisans Exhibition" Vol. 17: Yorokobi

~A New Year Celebration of Two Traditional Crafts: Oshie Hagoita × Karakami~

Shiba Park Hotel (Operated by Shiba Park Hotel Co., Ltd., Minato-ku, Tokyo; President: Rentaro Yanase) will present the Tale of Artisans Exhibition from December 1, 2025 (Mon.) through March 8, 2026 (Sun.), a seasonal showcase of Japanese culture. The theme of this 17th edition is "Yorokobi (Rejoicing)," introducing two time-honored crafts that bring an elegant flourish to the start of the year.



Festive Elegance to Celebrate the New Year – The Beauty of Oshie Hagoita and Karakami

Rejoicing and Celebration As the New Year begins, the festive season unfolds. In Vol. 17, themed "Yorokobi (Rejoicing)," we feature two crafts: Oshie Hagoita—familiar from traditional year-end hagoita fairs—and the resplendent Karakami, perfectly suited to celebratory occasions. Please take your time and enjoy the exhibition at your leisure.

What is Oshie Hagoita? Hagoita paddles have long been cherished as New Year's gifts believed to ward off misfortune, and as tokens to celebrate the birth of a girl. Oshie is a decorative

technique in which cotton wrapped in fabric is used to create raised, relief-like motifs. The combination of these gave rise to Oshie Hagoita during the Bunka–Bunsei era (1804–1830) of the Edo period. Among them, Yakusha Hagoita—auspicious paddles adorned with oshie portraits of kabuki actors—became a sensation with Edo townspeople and sold in great numbers.



The shape of rejoicing, woven by artisans' craftsmanship.

What is Karakami? Karakami is a decorative paper introduced from Tang-dynasty China. Hand-printed from woodblocks and often sprinkled with gold and silver sunago (metallic powders), karakami has adorned spaces since the medieval era, applied to fusuma (sliding doors) and folding screens. Originating in Kyoto, the craft took root in Edo and evolved into a distinctly Edo aesthetic. Broadly there are three techniques and practitioners: karakami-shi who print from woodblocks; sarasa-shi who use Ise-katagami stencils; and sunago-shi who apply gold and silver leaf or powders.

This exhibition offers an up-close view of works by artisans who carry these skills forward today—and select pieces are available for purchase. Oshie Hagoita works are by Kougetsu Nishiyama (second generation); karakami works are by Yukio Koizumi of Karagen (third generation), RISE Co., Ltd., and Kikuchi Fusuma Paper Factory. We invite you to experience the beauty woven by history and culture at Shiba Park Hotel.



A space filled with New Year charms and Karakami paper.

■ Event Overview

Dates: December 1, 2025 (Mon.) – March 8, 2026 (Sun.)

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (final day until 4:00 p.m.)

Venue: Shiba Park Hotel, 1F Library Lounge; 2F Foyer

Admission: Free

■ Artist Profiles

Kougetsu Nishiyama / Hagoita Artist

Born in 1962 as the eldest son of the first-generation Hagoita artist Kougetsu Nishiyama.

After graduating from high school, he began his training under Oshie artist Shuzan Sakurai, and later apprenticed under his father.

In November 2014, he succeeded to the name “Kougetsu” as the second-generation artisan and continues his craft to this day.

<https://kougetsu.exblog.jp/>

Yukio Koizumi

The third generation of Karakami-shi/Karagen, founded during the Edo and Kaei years. He is the 5th generation since first generation Shichigoro Koizumi, who was praised as a master craftsman during Edo. He has been studying under his father since he was 20 years old and is engaged in the family business. Now his two sons, Masayuki and Akio, are following in his footsteps.

<http://karakaminokaragen.com>

RISE Co.,Ltd.

The company plans, produces, and sells art panels, art objects, lighting fixtures, and other products that utilize traditional craft techniques that Japan is proud of.

<https://k-mizukami.com/>

Kikuchi Fusuma Manufacturing

A fusuma paper manufacturing factory founded in 1924. Within the traditional technique of Karakami, the technique of Sunago has been handed down. In 2015, in order to continue this traditional Japanese decorative technique, the Traditional Crafts Office was set up as a team specializing in traditional crafts.

<https://fusuma.co.jp/ippinshu/index.html>

What is the “Tale of Artisans”?

Nestled in the culturally rich Shiba area of Tokyo, a region steeped in the grandeur of the Edo era, our unique hotel concept merges the timeless art of reading with the luxury of travel. Shiba Park Hotel presents the “Tale of Artisans”—a curated exhibition spanning the first and second floors, dedicated to celebrating the exquisite work of Japanese artists and craftsmen. This unique feature of the hotel allows travelers to immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of Japan’s artistic heritage, with the opportunity to explore a collection of hidden treasures gathered from across the country.

Curation: Nippon no Waza Dot Com

<https://nipponnowaza.com/>

(Operated by: **braincafé Co., Ltd.** <https://www.braincafe.net/>)



Exterior of Shiba Park Hotel

About Shiba Park Hotel

Founded in 1948, Shiba Park Hotel began as a hotel for foreign trade missions and has a rich history and tradition. The hotel features 198 guest rooms, a restaurant offering Japanese, Western, and Chinese cuisine on the first floor, and four banquet rooms on the second floor. From 2020 to 2023, the hotel underwent renovations of its guest rooms and public spaces. Cultural experiences such as tea ceremonies and kintsugi workshops are also offered.

Website: <https://www.shibaparkhotel.com>

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