

からくり新聞

KARAKURI NEWS #52
August 2017

Introduction of the New Members!!

There are two new craftsmen who joined our Karakuri Creation Group from 2016. They studied woodworking techniques at a professional school together. We hope that they will make their own original Karakuri boxes as professional craftsmen. Please wait in eager expectation.

Yasuaki Kikuchi



1978 Born in Tokyo,
and grew up at Yokohama.

Shou Sugimoto



1990 Born in Aichi Prefecture.



There is a disparity of age between the two, but they were in the same class at the professional school. Please welcome them!



Exhibition of Karakuri Boxes was held at the Matsuya Ginza.

May 3rd - 9th, 2017

Matsuya Ginza

The 7th floor Wanoza-stage

We exhibited our newest products at Matsuya Ginza. The theme of this exhibition was "Story". There were various Karakuri Boxes which were made by each craftsman. We exhibited "Dragon" which is the special Karakuri Box. Visitors watched and enjoyed its beautiful wood art inlay.



he biggest work is "Dragon". And the works which were made for the theme "Story".

Visitors were manipulating the Karakuri boxes and enjoyed opening them. How many Karakuri boxes could they open?

Kawashima was chosen the winner of Kanagawa Prefecture for LEXUS NEW TAKUMI PROJECT 2016

LEXUS NEW TAKUMI PROJECT is a project to support manufacturing of "Takumi" in prefectures nationwide. This project started in 2016 and "Takumi" were chosen from 47 prefectures throughout Japan. The organizations that hosted the event supported the craftsmens development of new products by completing their new and innovative works.

This memorable, first of its kind event, selected the winning representative work of "Takumi", from Kanagawa Prefecture. The chosen work was created by one of our own Karakuri Creation Group craftsmen, Hideaki Kawashima. Kawashima developed and revised a product. It was his pastry work "snow storm" with lacquered lacquer. This work was exhibited at Matsuya Ginza in May. I think that some people may come and see it at Matsuya.

We are planning to sell this special work only for Members. Although limited in quantity, please wait a while until the announcement!



Karakuri Puzzle Festival 2017 is being held now!

There are various events during the festival every year. We will report on the events which have finished or are being held now.

◆ Karakuri Puzzle Workshop.
Date: from 23rd July to 20th August.
Place: Odawara and Hakone area.

There are many children at each work shop every year. They enjoyed making Karakuri boxes by themselves with help from their mother or father.



Every work shop was full of children and their families. There were many rainy days this summer, but it was no problem for making Karakuri boxes indoors.

◆ The exhibition "Is this a box??"

Date: 11th & 12th of August

Place: Harune Odawara

The word "Box" is in our products "Karakuri Box", but it does not look like an ordinary "box" with spacious storage inside. If you look at our Karakuri Boxes for the first time, you probably won't think it has a storage compartment inside it. So, we decided the title of the exhibition, "Is this a box?". It was held for only two days. The various genres of Karakuri "boxes" were displayed and everyone seemed to enjoy them.

↓ "It takes many steps to open these boxes."



"KING CUBE" made by Iwahara, it requires 1536 times to open!



↑ "Is this really a box?"

These boxes naturally have a storage section, but they don't seem like actual boxes.

↑ "Karakuri boxes in the form of food."

↑ Works unmatched are "works which have a smaller storage space in comparison to its appearance."

◆ The 9th annual Karakuri Puzzle Idea Contest Winning works are now being exhibited.

Date: 15th July - 31st August

Place: Harune Odawara, Hakone Sekisho Karakuri Museum

You can see the selected winning works for this year in Odawara and Hakone. Four new Karakuri boxes were made by Karakuri craftsmen and are being exhibited now. We will hold an awards ceremony on September 9th at Harune Odawara. You can see the newest winning work and can hear the story behind the production process.



The four winning works are "Palette", "Four Leaf Clover", "Crayon of Cleanliness" and "Compass".



← The award ceremony last year, 2016. Kakuda is explaining about the process of producing "Sad Tempera". This part showed how to make the Tentsuyu.



★ Karakuri Puzzle Festival 2017 Schedule for September

Karakuri Puzzle Party in Hakone

◆ Karakuri Puzzle work shop for adults.

Date: September 17th 12:30-14:30

Place: Harune Odawara

The participants make "Osaru no Kagoya".

Osaru is monkey. Kago is a palanquin. (A mode of transportation, where a person would sit in a covered basket and two others would carry the basket using poles across their shoulders.) This work kit's mechanism is simple. You can open the box when you successfully bring "Kago", from Odawara castle to Hakone Sekisho.



"Osaru no Kagoya"



◆ Special talk show by Ninonimiya and Iwahara

Date: 17th September 15:00-16:15

Place: Harune Odawara Harune Square

It is a special talk show celebrating the publication of Ninomiya's work collection book.

Ninomiya and Iwahara will be present, along with special guest, Yoshiaki Hirano who introduced Ninomiya's works to the world.

Attending the event is free, so please don't miss this precious opportunity!

By the way, we have an autograph session after the end of the talk show.

Please have your Ninomiya's work collection book ready for Ninomiya to sign.

You can purchase the collection book at the shop Takumi-Kan beside Harune Square.



Yoshiyuki Ninomiya



Yoshiaki Hirano

📦 Karakuri Puzzle Fair was held.

Date: August 11th and 12th

Place: Harune Odawara

You could play and buy many kinds of toys or Puzzles at this event.

There was an area to make your own Karakuri work kit with Karakuri craftsmen.

Many visitors enjoyed it.

There were a lot of tourists.

The exhibition, "Is this a box??", was also being held nearby.

