

8. Woodblock Prints

Q: What led you to pursue this craft?

I admired a woodblock printer I saw on television, and then heard on the radio at my part-time job about Tokyo's traditional craft artisan training program. Those two things came together and led me down this path.

Q: What is unique about the appeal of woodblock prints?

The way a single image comes together by printing one color at a time. Karazuri, a blind-printing technique that transfers the relief of the woodblock onto paper without ink, is appealing because it can be appreciated not only visually but also through touch.

Q: What keeps the colors aligned no matter how many are printed?

The paper is aligned with registration marks called kento carved into the woodblock. The Japanese expressions kento hazure ("off the mark") and kento chigai ("mistaken judgment") are also said to derive from this term.

Q: When are you most glad that you became an artisan?

When I see people who discover woodblock prints at events or workshops react with surprise and delight.

Q: What can visitors enjoy about woodblock prints at the venue?

The layers of color and rich expression created by printing one color at a time. Please experience the texture and depth that can only be appreciated in person.

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Works created using Edo Moku-hanga techniques