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Kokeshi, From Tohoku With Love



Synopsis

Kokeshi from Tohoku with Love is the second edition of the best selling book that looks at the craft and culture of kokeshi dolls. Included are more profiles, over 50 more photos and several new chapters. Kokeshi are the traditional dolls that are made of wood and are characterized by their lack of arms or legs. They are produced in the Tohoku region of Japan and were originally a children's toy, although it is more often used as a form of decoration nowadays and displayed in the home. Abroad, they are considered to be an icon of Japan, and reflect Japanese aesthetic sensibilities with their simple, elegant and minimalist designs. Kokeshi have the appeal of imperfection and hand made exclusivity as no two dolls are the same, each kokeshi embodies the qualities of wood, something that is often referred to as "warmth." In fact, for collectors, more than the freshly made kokeshi, many covet the atmosphere of the vintage kokeshi -- rather than degrading, as with plastic or artificial materials, the wood picks up a dewy, subdued colour and the delicately painted features fade gracefully with time. This book is the only English language book that looks at this culture in depth, and is the only book with English language interviews with the masters of the craft. The author, Manami Okazaki, visits all 6 prefectures of Tohoku to profile 23 artisans in the remote hot spring villages where they are made. Included are the work and interviews with the masters to the up and coming artists, and highlights many aesthetic theories and sensibilities that are prevalent in contemporary design, even today. The book also looks at Japanese hotspring culture, and Tohoku culture to paint a holistic picture of kokeshi culture. This book will delight fans of wooden crafts, Japanese culture and travellers to Japan. The book gives an insight into the psychology of the craftsman, the process of production, the motifs and the various types, which will inform the collector. This book will also suit travelers to Japan who wish to explore the Northern region of Japan, and their charming hot spring villages. Included are hundreds of photographs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"... a delightful little book that captures the warmth of the artisans involved in creating the wooden dolls and reveals how deeply something as basic as simple wooden doll can become so entrenched into a culture." -- Japan Times

Manami Okazaki is an author and journalist. She has written 9 books on Japanese culture, art, crafts and fashion, which have been widely acclaimed by international media.

A absolutely love kokeshis and have many that I got when I was in Japan. This book is the perfect addition to my collection. I hope go back someday and visit Tohoku.

This could have been a better book if she told you more about the different types of Kokeshi as well as the makers.

good description and information about these dolls

This book is an incredible deal for the \$14. It has many wonderful illustrations and tons of interviews with kokeshi craftsmen. Get it!!!

Beautiful book. Invaluable for kokeshi collectors.

Beautiful written book about the world of traditional doll makers in Tohoku Japan. Gorgeous photos and a lovely quality book.

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