

# KOKESHITRENDS

JOURNAL

Q3 2019 | VOL 4 ISS 3

## COLLECTORS

- Melissa Fredericksen
- Diem Nguyen
- Angie Rhinehart

## FEATURING

- Rika Komatsu
- Find out who won 1st prize at the 65th Japanese Kokeshi Festival in Narugo!

こけし



**Another Tokyo Monogatari** by  
Joanna Nakamura  
@BlueBearVendingCo



Free Publication



Like us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/Kokeshi.Trends](http://www.facebook.com/Kokeshi.Trends)

Join us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/Kokeshi.Village](http://www.facebook.com/groups/Kokeshi.Village)

Follow us on Twitter:  
[@KokeshiVillage](https://twitter.com/KokeshiVillage)

Follow us on Instagram:  
[@KokeshiTrends](https://www.instagram.com/KokeshiTrends)

View our Galleries:  
[KokeshiVillage](http://KokeshiVillage)

Contact:  
[info@Kokeshitrends.com](mailto:info@Kokeshitrends.com)

FREE Online Journal  
If you paid for this Journal  
please send an E-mail to  
[info@Kokeshitrends.com](mailto:info@Kokeshitrends.com)  
with the web address,  
amount paid and if possible  
the receipt so that we may  
investigate and take the  
appropriate actions.

(C) All Rights Reserved  
No part of this Journal  
may be reproduced and  
or distributed without  
prior written consent from  
KokeshiTrends.Com.

KT is produced & self-  
published by Madelyn  
Molina.

Editor On Call  
Jill Holmgren



KOKESHI TRENDS

# Welcome to the 3rd Quarterly Edition of KT 2019

Dear Kokeshi Friends,

Where did the year go? It seems like just yesterday we were celebrating the start of a new year and today we are nearing the closing of what has been an epic year for Mother Nature. I hope that you, your friends and all your family are well. Sending positive energy to anyone that needs it.

For this edition we are featuring the work of Togatta Kokeshi maker Rika Komatsu and getting a birds eye view of the collections of fellow Facebook, Kokeshi Village, group members Diem Nguyen, Angie Rhinehart and Melissa Fredericksen. We also are sharing some of the winners of this years 65th Narugo Kokeshi Festival competition. In addition to featuring another fantastic Tokyo Monogatari story by Joanna Nakamura.

I hope you will enjoy this issue of KT, and as always, it has been my extreme honor and pleasure to present the works and personal stories of the artists & collectors presented.

Many thanks to the wonderful artisans, collectors, contributors and you, our readers. It is without a doubt that your collaboration and encouragement keep me motivated and excited about every KT issue we release. KT is actively engaging with you all through social media, so feel free to say hi and please remember to follow/like us on [IG](#) and [Facebook](#)!

Sincerely,

*Madelyn*

Founder

---

## Featured Articles

Komatsu, Rika	<a href="#">04</a>	Happy Halloween	<a href="#">28</a>
In Remembrance Takahashi Hisamune	<a href="#">16</a>	Tokyo Monogatari Joanna Nakamura	<a href="#">30</a>
Mitoo Hiroshi	<a href="#">22</a>	Happy Thanksgiving	<a href="#">42</a>
Diem Nguyen	<a href="#">18</a>	The 65th Japan Kokeshi Festival Results	<a href="#">44</a>
Angie Rhinehart	<a href="#">24</a>	Shop Listings	<a href="#">48</a>
Melissa Fredericksen	<a href="#">12</a>		



# Trending

Kokeshiwiki has reported a new Nakanosawa Kokeshi Kojin [Sakamoto Yoshinori](#) who is creating works and still under mentorship with his teacher [Seya Koji](#).



Photo found on Kokeshi Wiki (17 U.S.C. § 107 - U.S. Code; Fairuse educational purposes)



Ishinomaki Kokehi cakes! These little ones were recently seen for auction fetching staggering prices by what would seem like hardcore dessert fans!

Photos: Public auction listings as advertised by [Tree Tree Ishinonaki](#)



When will we see more wood girls by [Joanna Nakamura](#)? Good news, January 2020 will be the month to be on the lookout for more of these Kokeshi inspired darlings. This one is part of the Soulportals collection & is not for sale.

Did you know that [Cynthia C Gibson](#) recently released the "Munchkins" line of [The Amazing Doll](#)? These beauties were created with moderate pricing for collectors wanting to experience owning one of her highly detailed and quality created girls. So if you haven't picked one up this is your chance!



New antique shop Ozekiya recently had their grand opening. The good news is that the owner will also sell Kokeshi internationally and accepts Paypal. So if you're looking for vintage Kokeshi check out their IG account [@kokeshi.ozekiya](#)



August 30, 2019  
Interview by Madelyn Molina

Featured Artist & Kokeshi Maker  
Rika Komatsu - Togatta  
Instagram: [@denapanku](#)  
Home Base: Japan

Rika Komatsu was born in Osaka, Japan. At the young age of 20 she left home and went to London, to study art. It wasn't long until she realized that she didn't know much about traditional Japanese art. So, she returned to Japan and started to live in the deep mountains of the Northern part of Japan. Now she is a Kokeshi maker and Cartoonist. She has a son and 2 cats, loves music and also plays the piano. Here is our candid interview with Rika-san.

**KT:** How did you become Kokeshi maker? What inspired you to want to become one?

**RIKA:** My former husband (he is my best friend now) was born in Miyagi. He is a clay doll maker, and told me about Kokeshi dolls because there's no Kokeshi culture in Osaka or the Western, Southern, part of Japan. I became interested in Kokeshi but never thought to be a maker. Later, I learned that the Union of Togatta Kokeshi makers were recruiting new Kokeshi makers, so I applied.

**KT:** When did you create your first Kokeshi, who was your mentor/teacher?

**RIKA:** In August of 2016 I made my first Kokeshi and many teachers were teaching us then. [Sato Tetsuro](#), [Sato Tadashi](#), [Sato Katsuhiko](#), [Sakuta Koichi](#), and [Kusaka Hideyuki](#). Later on, I selected Mr. Sato Tadashi as my main teacher.

**KT:** You created your very own design, which you call Greeting Kokeshi, can you tell us a little bit more about this new type of design?

**RIKA:** Once ago, Kokeshi dolls were placed on the TVs or record players in Japanese living rooms, but those players are getting thinner and thinner. So, Kokeshi dolls are straying in their houses these days. I wanted to give them the right places to be. It's lucky, Japanese wives still love to

decorate their entrances with flowers, seasonal accessories, and of course some kind of dolls to greet visitors. So, I made my Kokeshi dolls like bowing, to be suitable for the entrances.

**KT:** What is the most difficult and or challenging part of the creation process?

**RIKA:** I think it's always difficult to draw Kokeshi faces.

**KT:** What are some of your favorite motif to use when making your Kokeshi?

**RIKA:** I have made some Kokeshi of fruits but my favorite motif is still flowers, especially wild flowers.

**KT:** How do you decide on the types of patterns that you will use; do you sketch them out first?

**RIKA:** I decide the pattern of flowers by seasons, about 1 month early, because many Japanese like to feel the season before it arrives. By watching photos on my computer, I draw flowers on the Kokeshi with dye directly. I don't sketch them.

**KT:** How long does one single piece take to create?

**RIKA:** It takes about fifteen minutes on the lathe another twenty minutes to draw the design and finally 3 minutes to wax and assemble the Kokeshi.

**KT:** Do you personally have any Kokeshi dolls?

**RIKA:** I have some of my teacher's Kokeshi dolls, Sato Tadashi, and of his father's [Kikuji](#). I also have some of [Suzuki Konosuke's](#), who lived nearby Togatta and Hijiori. I like Yajiro Kokeshi, especially [Niiyama Yoshinori](#), and [Mayumi](#) too, they are my good friends for a long time.

**KT:** What memorable responses have you had from your customers?

**RIKA:** At the shop, "She (one of the greeting Kokeshi) is calling me, I will take her to my house!" At least 3 women said same thing.



**KT:** What a wonderful comment to receive. I can also agree, when I saw your Greeting Kokeshi, I wanted one very much and it was sold out so quickly I could not get it. I was so sad, but now I have 4 beautiful greeting Kokeshi and I am very happy. Also, I did not know that Nemariko is a term only used for sitting Naruko Kokeshi. I learned something new from you thank you for that knowledge.

**KT:** How and where can your work be purchased?

**RIKA:** There are several places to buy them one is the [Miyagi Zao Kokeshi Museum](#) in (Japan). Also, sometimes through [Kokeshi Carol](#) a net shop that is in English and ships internationally. Occasionally I may be able to take an order through direct message on my [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) but when I'm very busy, I may not be able to reply, sorry for that.

**KT:** What payment methods do you accept and do you ship internationally?

**RIKA:** PayPal, I will ship internationally, if you will wait for me.

**KT:** Is there something more you would like to share with KT readers about your beautiful Kokeshi?

**RIKA:** Thank you, Madelyn, thank all of KT readers for having me! I'm so excited to know that so many people abroad love Kokeshi dolls! I'd like to make good dolls and to explain about Japanese Kokeshi culture instead of speechless dolls. Thank you so much!

**KT:** It has been our pleasure to have you Rika-san. So wonderful to learn about your Kokeshi and we are looking forward to seeing more of your work. Thank you very much for being a part of our Kokeshi Trends Family.

---

External links are to [KokeshiWiki](#) a well known source of information on Kokeshi craftsmen and their work.





小松里佳  
KOMATSU, RIKI









小松里佳  
KOMATSU, RIKI









# Dreaming About Christmas







小松里佳  

---

Rika Komatsu





July 30, 2019

Interview by: Madelyn Molina

Featured Collector:  
Melissa Fredericksen  
Contact Info:  
ravin1121@yahoo.com  
Facebook:  
[@Melissa Fredericksen](#)  
Home Base: USA

**KT:** Please tell us a little bit about yourself:

**MELISSA:** I am usually pretty busy with work and my son but I do have a few hobbies.

I love watching YouTube. My favorite channels are only in Japan, Metal Floss and Sketch Art. I like going to my favorite ramen restaurant or shopping at my local Japanese market and playing a video game from time to time. I love all things Japanese.

**KT:** When and how did you first become interested in Kokeshi?

**MELISSA:** I have loved Japanese culture for a number of years. However, it wasn't until in 2017 when I saw an educational video on Kokeshi by Japanology on YouTube that I became interested in them. Later that year I purchased my first Kokeshi doll for Christmas and the book Kokeshi: [From Tohoku with Love](#) by [Manami Okazaki](#) and it was then that I really fell in love with Kokeshi. They are unlike any craft that I have seen before and there's so many different kinds.

**KT:** What was your first Kokeshi?

**MELISSA:** My first Kokeshi was a Christmas gift and it is an [Usaburo](#) Kokeshi. She stands tall

and strong with a lovely cherry blossom kimono.

**KT:** Do you have a favorite Kokeshi that you would never part with?

**MELISSA:** My favorite Kokeshi is a blue ejiko made by [Noboru Wagatsuma](#). I bought it this year as my Mother's Day gift. I love the way he paints the face so happy like she's laughing a little. It brings me great joy just to look at her.

**KT:** About how many Kokeshi would you say you have in your collection.

**MELISSA:** I have twenty-one Kokeshi. The apartment I live in doesn't get a lot of light and they are all in a bookcase on top of a dresser. So, they don't get direct





## COLLECTORS CORNER

### MELISSA FREDERICKSEN

light and I dust them from time to time.

**KT:** Do you collect both sōsaku and dentō Kokeshi?

**MELISSA:** Yes, I collect both but I have come to really love the not so traditional type.

They are really cute. I love the different shapes and bright colors too.

**KT:** Do you like both vintage and newly made Kokeshi?

**MELISSA:** I like both but the vintage must be in really good condition. Having the least amount of dirt, dents and fading as possible is what I would go for. Otherwise I get new ones. I love to get custom Kokeshi made when possible. They feel more personal that way and I want to pass them down to my son when he's older.

**KT:** I would like to believe that Kokeshi is growing in popularity. If you could influence the future of Kokeshi, what would you want to do to ensure that the craft continues on for future generations?

**MELISSA:** I would make it easier for people to visit Japan and I would have brochures for visitors to Japan to read about Kokeshi and its history. I also would find a

way to regulate pricing online so there wouldn't be such a big gap in the costs of certain dolls, so that most people can afford them. Maybe even have some money for relief efforts for cities in the

**KT:** Is there anything more you would like to share with your fellow collectors, tips, experiences, etc.?

**MELISSA:** I found that Instagram might be a good place to see lots of Kokeshi. The pictures that people post are great and you might even meet an artist there as well. That's always so exciting; to actually have conversations with people who make them.



Tōhoku region that are hit by natural disasters.

**KT:** Are you familiar with the term “de-stashing”? Is this something you practice when expanding your collection?

**MELISSA:** I have moved my books from the bookcase where I keep my Kokeshi to make room for more of them.







Tsugaru Kokeshi by [Abo Muchihilde](#) in Melissa Frederick's collection



COLLECTORS CORNER  
MELISSA FREDERICKSEN



Cat Kokeshi by [Umeki Naomi](#), [NekoKeshi](#), [Hideyuki Kusaka](#) and [Kano Yohei](#)



高橋久宗  
たかはしひさむね

.....



In Remembrance



# Takahashi, Hisamune

## 1930 ~ 2019

[KokeshiWiki Bio](#)



Photo: MMolina Soulportals Collection





August 17, 2019

Interview by Madelyn Molina

Featured Collector: Diem Nguyen

Contact Info: [Diemsj@yahoo.com](mailto:Diemsj@yahoo.com)

Facebook: Diem Nguyen

Instagram: [kokeshi\\_addict](https://www.instagram.com/kokeshi_addict)

KT: When and how did you first become interested in Kokeshi?

DIEM: My first Kokeshi was when I started my Instagram account in 2016. I saw a beautifully made wooden doll, from [Folkeshi](https://www.folkeshi.com) site. So, being curious, I did not know anything about Kokeshi and went to eBay to search for Folkeshi and then it popped up a whole new world for me and realized they were called Kokeshi!

KT: Can you tell us a little bit about your first Kokeshi.

DIEM: My first Kokeshi was from Folkeshi she was on the Etsy site and I bought it! She was made out of wood and had a simple Chinese dress on, she was feminine with a detailed face and her hair was put up in a bun. I love anything dainty which is why I was very drawn to her. She's considered a creative Kokeshi.

KT: Do you have a favorite Kokeshi that you would never part with?

DIEM: My favorite, that's a hard one. I tried several times to downsize and that definitely did not work! There are 2 that I would not part with. That would be my very first one and the second one is another creative one with big hair. I don't know the artist to these two.



KT: About how many Kokeshi would you say you have in your collection; where do you display them and how do you care for them?

DIEM: I have over 300 Kokeshi. There is a big shelf in my living room and I display them all there. I'm running out of room and so I have them on my buffet table in the dining room, and shelves throughout my office at work. I would like to keep them all in one place so I can stare at



them every day, my dream is just to have a room for them. I dust them weekly and been trying the clean them with Pledge or clean with a cloth to maintain them and of course watching Madelyn's tutorial to keep them in good shape.

KT: Do you collect both Sōsaku and dentō Kokeshi?

DIEM: I love them all!!! I try to get at least one of each kind. I do like the creative more due to the dainty and feminine style.

KT: Do you like both vintage and newly made Kokeshi and do you have a preference for new or vintage?

DIEM: Yes! I just love them all! I do favor the vintage ones more though, the new ones I feel the craftsmanship is not like the vintage. I'm more into the artwork and how it's made the fine details and quality of the piece.

KT: I would like to believe that Kokeshi is growing in popularity. If you could influence the future of Kokeshi, what would you want to do to ensure that the craft continues on for future generations?

DIEM: The future of Kokeshi? I'm just a collector, but if we show a lot of the artwork through social media and share why we love them so much. I'm sure those with an artistic mind will appreciate them. Both my daughters think I'm crazy for collecting so much, but they do see why I collect them. the wood, the shapes, the artwork and different styles to them! I share my collection on Instagram @kokeshi\_addict this way I have pictures of

them all in one place!

KT: Are you familiar with the term "destashing?" Is this something you practice when expanding your collection? If yes, how do you go about selecting which ones to part with?

DIEM: I do destash but only if there's a duplicate or I don't have a connection with the piece. I get duplicates, when I buy at and auction and it happens to be a bulk group that was sold together and I would see 5 out of the 10 that I like. I then would resell the other pieces. I have sold them on eBay and Mecari.

KT: Has collecting Kokeshi created additional interest in Japanese arts? If yes, what sort of interest?

DIEM: My other collecting passion are the Russian nesting dolls which are called Matryoshka. Again, loving the artwork on them. I believe the Matryoshka dolls were inspired by the dolls in Honshu a main island of Japan. Which is the land of the daruma doll and the seven lucky gods.



[Noboru Wagatsuma](#)

KT: Is there anything more you would like to share with your fellow collectors?

DIEM: I personally collect because I just love them! The history of them, the artwork and the details that are put into them. My dream is to one day go to Japan and visit where it all started and meet with the artist, and to buy more!

KT: Thank you for allowing us to get a glimpse of your collection.









Collector's  
Corner



*Diem Nguyen Collection*



# 水戸寛 みとひろし

.....



水戸寛  
MITO, HIROSHI

Photo: MMolina Soulportals Collection



# Mito, Hiroshi

## 1933~2019

.....

[KokeshiWiki Bio](#)



In Remembrance





# Angie Rhinehart

August 24, 2019

Interview by: Madelyn Molina

Featured Collector: Angie Rhinehart

Contact Info: [rhinehartangie@yahoo.com](mailto:rhinehartangie@yahoo.com)

Facebook: [@angie.rhineart](https://www.facebook.com/angie.rhineart)

Home Base: Hawaii

For this edition of KokeshiTrends I had the pleasure of interviewing Angie Rhinehart. She is a fellow Kokeshi fan and [KokeshiVillage](https://www.facebook.com/KokeshiVillage) Facebook group member. Angie self-describes herself as a world traveler, currently enjoying life in beautiful Hawaii. She enjoys spending time at the beach, reading, scrapbooking and seeing as much of the world as she can. Angie, thank you for joining us, for this issue of KT.

KT: When and how did you first become interested in Kokeshi?

ANGIE: I had an amazing opportunity to live in Japan for 3 years. When I first arrived, I wasn't much of a Kokeshi fan until I went to my first flea market. I got hooked! I now have over 150 of these beauties. I loved going to the flea markets and thrift stores to find unique ones. I had a method, to how I did flea markets, to scope out the dolls.

KT: Can tell us a little bit about your 1st Kokeshi

and why you bought it?

ANGIE: I don't have a picture of the first one I bought, but for sure know I got it at the Yamaguchi flea market. I was so excited to find one. It was the beginning of my obsession.

KT: Do you have a favorite Kokeshi that you would never part with?

ANGIE: I think my favorite would be the Yamagata style. The artist is Satomi Masao, born 1/24/22 and died in 1981. The artist studied under Satou Kenji and started making Houkichi style himself in 1953.

KT: About how many Kokeshi would you say you have in your collection, where do you display them and how do you care for them?

ANGIE: Last count was about 183. I once displayed them in the cabinet (pictured) with some individual ones elsewhere in my home. I now have them above my kitchen cabinets grouped by similar style or colors. I am not great about their care, but do dust them regularly.

KT: Do you collect both sōsaku and dentō Kokeshi? If no, which do you collect? If yes, do you



have a preference between the two styles?

ANGIE: I have a collection of both and only buy ones that I find attractive. I don't have to have all the dolls, just ones that are pleasing to me.

KT: Do you like both vintage and newly made Kokeshi? Do you have a preference for new or vintage?

ANGIE: I have primarily vintage but do have some modern ones as well. I've been given some both new and vintage from very special Japanese friends before moving back to the US. They are my most favorite. I even have ones in a glass case that has Miyajima painted in it.

KT: I would like to believe that Kokeshi is growing in popularity. If you could influence the future of Kokeshi, what would you want to do to ensure that the craft continues on for future generations?

ANGIE: I would love to see more history out there about where they started, the artists lives and how they came to the craft. I have enjoyed what I've learned so far, but I'd love to see more of it.

KT: Are you familiar with the term destashing? Is this something you practice when expanding your collection? If yes, how do you go about selecting which ones to part with?

ANGIE: I have destashed a few of mine that weren't really favorites but were given to me as a "thank you" for buying others from vendors at flea markets. I've given a few as gifts. Mostly, if I can't display them, I'll tuck them away for another time.

KT: Is there anything more you would like to share with your fellow collectors, tips, experiences, etc.?

ANGIE: If you shop flea markets in Japan, you must look everywhere. They sometimes are hiding in boxes and not displayed. I also learned to ask if they had any. Sometimes they wouldn't be displayed at all. I guess they aren't big sellers for most people in Japan.

KT: Thanks for the tip Angie! Not sure if you know there are a few English resources on Kokeshi. One is a book by Author Okazaki Manami called [Kokeshi From Tohoku with Love](#) and another is by Authors [Michael Evans and Robert Wolf](#) titled Wooden Treasures of Japan, a second book was also issued by them titled Kokeshi A new Look at an Old Tradition.





VINTAGE







Angie Rhinehart  
COLLECTION









# Happy Halloween

[@Noboru\\_Singer](#)



Yuji Hasegawa



Kikuhiro, Sida

Abo Masafumi



[@Kokesia](#)







Contact Info: [bluebearvendingco@gmail.com](mailto:bluebearvendingco@gmail.com)  
Twitter: [@bluebearvending](https://twitter.com/bluebearvending)  
Instagram: [@bluebearvendingco](https://www.instagram.com/bluebearvendingco)  
Facebook: [bluebearvendingco](https://www.facebook.com/bluebearvendingco)  
Websites: [Tokyo Monogatari](http://TokyoMonogatari.com)  
[bluebearvending.com](http://bluebearvending.com)

**A blue bear vending co. production**  
**Illustrated & Written by Joanna Nakamura**

Joanna is going to  
share another story!



(c) All rights reserved. Joanna Nakamura, Author, grants KokeshiTrends.com publishing rights for The Kurabito Kappa which includes "printing, publishing, producing and distributing"; the Author is the sole holder of all copyrights and other rights to publish and disseminate the Work.



# MEET THE CHARACTERS



Boss Panda ボスパンダ

---

Gentle giant with a secret past. Now runs a local sento and helps his community. Just don't ask him about the tattoos. He oversees the operations of the Tokyo Crows (東京鳥), a much misunderstood network of the city's birds who maintain a watchful eye over the hidden citizens of Tokyo. They often come under attack from humans who see them as pests.

Boss Panda is also the guardian of the mischievous Takenoko – the spirits of baby bamboo shoots who get into all sorts of trouble



Kiku Kitsune 菊狐

---

Kiku is a British red fox, born in England and raised as an only cub until his mother was killed during a fox hunt when he was six years old. Before his mother died and the family was separated, Kiku's grandfather used to tell him tales of the foxes of Japan and their many adventures. Kiku hoped to travel there one day and dreamed of becoming a shrine guardian for Inari, god of the rice harvest. After the untimely death of his mother, he made the decision to leave England and though still a child, he found his way onto a ship bound for Tokyo.



Miko-chan 巫女ちゃん

---

Miko is a shrine maiden cloth doll, found by Kiku living in the Tokyo Metro Lost and Found Center in Ueno Station, Tokyo. For a long time she had no memory of how she came to be there, or of her life before, but one day she confided in her new family at the Bamboo Bathhouse, telling them her sad story. She is Kiku's best friend, accompanying him on his adventures, and hoping one day to find a role for herself.



Toji Tanuki 杜氏たぬき

---

Master brewer at the White Crow Sake Brewery Co., Ltd, a few blocks from the Bamboo Bathhouse. Tanuki-san is even older than Boss Panda and knows a lot of history about the local neighborhood and Tokyo. He employs friendly kappa as kurabito (brewery workers) because of their special relationship with water. The kuramoto or brewery owner is Boss Panda, and the pair have a long and close relationship.





One day in late October, Boss Panda asked Kiku and Miko-chan if they would like to go with him to the White Crow Brewery whilst he checked on the preparations for the upcoming saké making season.





Miko-chan began to look nervously at her feet. "I think I'd rather stay here and help Mama Kōjin in the kitchen", she mumbled. Kiku the little fox looked at her in surprise, "Miko-chan, it isn't like you to pass up an adventure!" She sighed, and after a pause explained her reluctance. "I heard Toji Tanuki [杜氏たぬき] say when he last came round that the kurabito (workers at a sake brewery) are kappa, and I looked in one of Mama Kōjin's yōkai guides to see what they were. Kiku - they are water demons!"

Boss Panda tried to reassure the little doll who was particularly jumpy at this time of year, when the nights began to draw in and supernatural beings were more active. "Let's go and sit in the garden and I'll explain". So the three went out into the garden of the Bamboo Bathhouse, now beginning to show the colours of autumn, and sat together on the engawa to talk.







"A kappa is a kind of water spirit," explained the bear gently. The name literally means 'river child'. There are different types, and it is true that for many years stories about them have been used to warn human children of the dangers of playing near water. Once a child has heard about being pulled into the water and devoured by a hungry ogre, you can be sure that they are more careful when playing next to rivers and ponds! Which is of course exactly what the parents want. There are of course mischievous kappa too, and tales of terrible deeds (as with most Yokai), so I can see why you might be frightened. But most kappa are extremely polite with a strong sense of decorum, and for that reason, once a politeness has been shown to them they are loyal and hard working. Toji Tanuki once helped save these particular kappa from being killed when their pond was drained to make way for new buildings. As water spirits they have a strong connection to water and a knowledge of its properties, which as one of the most important ingredients of saké make them invaluable as kurabito".

The little shrine maiden doll looked at Boss Panda with wide eyes. "But the book also said they eat human flesh!" Boss Panda put his arm gently around her. "Maybe one did once, and you will find warning signs in Japan next to rivers to remind people to be watchful for kappa - but in truth, they much prefer to eat cucumbers. "Well that doesn't sound very terrifying", agreed Miko-chan.





**B**oss Panda continued. "I suppose you may find them a little odd to look at - they stand on two legs but have webbed hands and feet, and skin which can be slimy or scaled. They also have beaks, and a shell on their backs a little like a turtles. The most significant part of their appearance is the dish shaped indentation on their heads, called a sara - this must always be filled with water, for if it spills they lose their power and can die. If you were ever to meet one in the wild and feel threatened, make sure to politely bow - they will feel obliged to reciprocate and the water will spill out as they do so. They then have to stand bowed until the bowl is filled again, and if you refill it, they would have to be nice to you after that. So you see they are quite simple to deal with". Miko-chan still looked a little unsure, but finally agreed that she would go to the brewery and meet the workers for herself.





On arriving at the brewery, Boss Panda explained to Toji Tanuki that Miko and Kiku had never met a kappa before and were a little nervous. The old raccoon dog who worked as the head brewer was Boss Panda's oldest friend. He smiled and said, "There's nothing to be frightened of - the kappa here are brothers, and help me produce some of the best saké in town! Let me introduce you - Kappa-san!" he called down the corridor, and the sound of a sliding door could be heard. Miko-chan edged a little closer to Boss Panda, who put his arm around her for reassurance. Into the light came three green figures - one tall, one medium and one small one - who looked a little nervous himself.



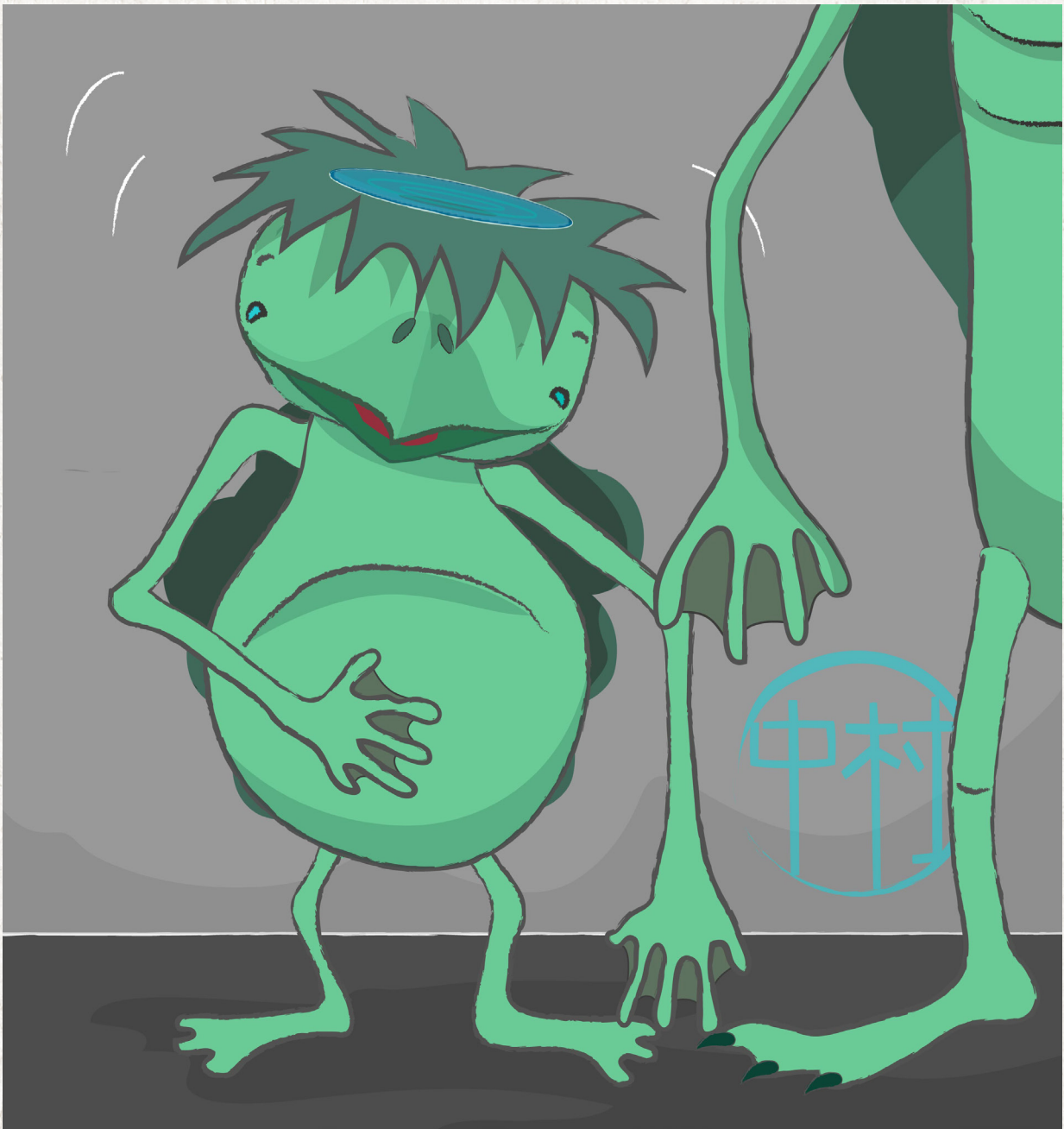


Toji Tanuki introduced them as Oh-Kappa [大カッパ], who was quite tall and had a little frog who lived in the bowl on his head, called Pon-chan. Chu-Kappa [中カッパ] was the middle sized one, and the little one was introduced as Chibi-kappa [ちびカッパ]. Each made a small bow as they were named, careful not to spill the water in the dishes on their heads, which Miko and Kiku could see sloshing around.

Once the introductions were over, Boss Panda began to ask them questions about how preparations were going, with such a busy time ahead. Chibi-kappa peered with interest at Miko-chan, as he had never met a shrine maiden before. She began to realise that they weren't scary after all, and they all sounded very knowledgeable when discussing preparing the rice for the saké making - even the little one who said something to the big bear about 'koji' (Miko did not know what that was). She tentatively gave a little wave at Chibi-Kappa, who began to beam a big smile.



When the work discussion had finished, Boss Panda turned to Miko-chan. "Didn't Mama Kōjin bring you something to give?" he winked at her. She remembered then that the old green lady had given her a wooden bento box to bring as a lunch offering to everyone at the brewery. She held it out to the largest kappa, who took off the lid of the box and all three looked delighted at the contents - a large selection of kappamaki sushi!









### Extra Information

**K**appamaki [かっぱ巻き] are cucumber filled sushi rolls, named for the kappa's fondness for the green vegetable - be sure to order some next time you are out for sushi!

**Y**okai [妖怪] are the spirits and demons found in Japanese folklore and take many different forms. They can be anything from malevolent to tricksters or fortune bringers.

**T**here is a Japanese proverb: 'kappa no kawa nagare' [河童の川流れ], which translates as 'a kappa drowning in a river' - meaning even experts make mistakes, as kappa are excellent swimmers.







*Happy  
Thanksgiving!*  
*KokeshiTrends.com*





# The 65<sup>th</sup> Japan Kokeshi Festival Results

Narugo 08.30.19 - 09.01.2019

鎌田孝志 (かまたたかし/1953)

The 65th Japan Kokeshi Festival was held in Narugo on August 30, 2019 through September 1, 2019. The Kokeshi Festival in Narugo was started on 1948 and it is the oldest event for the Kokeshi Artistic Competition.



Kamata Takashi (Photo: Aoba Kokeshi Association [Website](#))

In this years competition there were about 270 Kokeshi entries. The 1<sup>st</sup> prize was awarded to **Kamata Takashi**. Takashi-san followed the style of his grandfather Kamata Bunichi reproducing it with his own modern sense.



鈴木敬 (すずきたかし/1994)



Suzuki Takahashi (Photo: Aoba Kokeshi Association [Website](#))

**Suzuki Takashi** received the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize. He is a young Kokeshi craftsman and started to make his Kokeshi just two years ago. But he followed the style of the legendary Kokeshi maker Takahashi Enakichi. Suzuki Takashi was able to express the lonely feeling of old age. Enakichi.



阿部陽子 (あべよう/1932)



Abe Yoko (Photo: Aoba Kokeshi Association [Website](#))

**Abe Yoko** recieved the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize. She is now 87 years old and still pursues new challenges in her Kokeshi style creations. She tried to apply the style of Ogura Yonekichi and also various other Kijiyama elements, and finally produced her Kokeshi with her original style.



# The 65<sup>th</sup> Japan Kokeshi Festival Results

Narugo 08.30.19 - 09.01.2019



Kokeshi Festival Venue (Photo Masaaki Hashimoto)

Kokeshi Trends would like to thank Dr. Masaaki Hashimoto-san for his assistance with obtaining permission to post photos and information about the 65<sup>th</sup> Japanese Kokeshi Festival. In addition to graciously providing us details in English and a photo of the venue. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Aoba Kokeshi Association for graciously allowing us to share their content on KT.

To view the rest of the recipients, 31 in total, that were awarded, please visit the Aoba Kokeshi Association website ([direct link to the blogpost](#)).



# SHOPS



# ARTISTS

# & MORE

## Kokeshi Doll Shops

- [Daiichi Shobo](#)
- [emmabeeyou](#)
- [Folkeshi](#)
- [Gallery shin](#)
- [Hayabusa0550](#)
- [JapanCraftMS](#)
- [The Japan Stop](#)
- [Katagami Kokeshi](#)
- [Kimono Flaminia](#)
- [Kokeshi Manila Online](#)
- [Kokeshi Carol](#)
- [Kokesia](#)
- [Neko Box](#)
- [Nostalgic Kingyo](#)
- [Shimanuki Online Shop](#)
- [Shinapari](#)
- [Shuz Saya](#)
- [Artigianato Giapponese](#)

## Kokeshi Book Authors in English

- [Sunny Seki](#)
- [Manami Okazaki](#)
- [Michael Evans & Robert Wolf](#)

## Kokeshi Book Japanese (some English)

- [Kokeshi Jidai](#)

## Artists websites

- [The Amazing Doll](#)
- [blue bear vending co.](#)
- [Clark Studio Galleries](#)
- [COOKIES](#)
- [Daisuke Hayashi](#)
- [Janice Levi](#) **NEW**
- [Joolie Green](#)
- [Kekokeshi](#)
- [Kokeshi Sakurai](#)
- [Kokess](#)
- [Konami Ogata](#) **NEW**
- [Liat Reshef](#) **NEW**
- [Linda J Ferber](#) **NEW**
- [Mena Esterel](#)
- [Naomi Gallery](#)
- [Noboru Wagatsuma](#)
- [Planete Kokeshi](#)
- [ShopToast](#)
- [SketchInc](#)
- [Tomohiro Matsuda](#)
- [Usaburo Kokeshi](#)



Ask us how to get your  
shop listed here:  
**Info@Kokeshitrends.com**



## Peg Dolls

- [Bonny Bloom](#)
- [Caddy Creations](#)
- [Peg & Plum](#)

## Information

[Kokeshi Wiki](#)  
[KokeshiVillage](#)

## Museums

- [Kamei Museum, Japan](#)
- [JANM, CA, USA](#)
- [Morikami Museum, FL USA](#)
- [Tsugaru Kokeshi Museum, Japan](#)

Your ad  
could be here







TAKAHASHI, SEISHI  
高橋精志

*Thank you  
for stopping by*