

Artist Profiles

Yoshitaro Kamakura [1898-1983].

Born in Kagawa Prefecture.

Came to Okinawa in 1921 as an art teacher.

Fascinated by Ryukyuan arts and crafts and folk culture, he conducted research on these subjects.

The records of his research are now the most important materials for the study of Okinawan cultural history known as the “Yoshitaro Kamakura Documents” (in the collection of Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts).

After leaving Okinawa, he became a teacher at the Tokyo School of Fine Arts, but resigned to become a dyeing and weaving artist based on the *bingata* techniques he learned in Okinawa.

In 1973, he was certified as the holder of the nationally designated Important Intangible Cultural Heritage “*kata-e* dye”.

Yuko Tamanaha [1936-]

Born in Ishigaki City, Okinawa.

Studied under Eiki Shiroma, the 14th generation of the Shiroma family.

After becoming independent, he worked on traditional classical patterns and double-sided dyeing, and developed his original *bingata*.

In 1996, he was certified as the holder of the nationally designated Important Intangible Cultural Heritage “*bingata*”.

Eiki Shiroma [1908-1992].

Born in Naha City, Okinawa.

Born into the Shiroma family, whose family business was *bingata* production during the Ryukyu Kingdom era. During the devastation of the postwar period, he became the 14th head of the Shiroma family and devoted himself to the revival of *bingata*.

He has fostered many *bingata* artists and laid the foundation of the current *bingata* culture.

In 1973, he was certified as the holder of “*bingata*”, an intangible cultural heritage designated by Okinawa Prefecture.

Sachiko Arakaki [1945-]

Born in Kumamoto Prefecture, where her family was evacuated during the war.

She uses plants from Ishigaki Island to express a variety of colors.

She has devoted herself to Yaeyama *jofu* and the training of its successors.

In 1991, she was certified as an Okinawa Prefecture-designated Intangible Cultural Heritage Skill Holder.

In 2024, she was certified as the holder of Yaeyama *Jofu*, a nationally designated Important Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Reiko Fujimura [1939-2015].

Born in Naha City, Okinawa.

Studied under Eiki Shiroma, the 14th generation of the Shiroma family.

After becoming independent, established her own studio.

She reproduced traditional Ryukyu *bingata* and also produced original works.

In 1997, she was certified as holder of “*bingata*”, an Okinawa Prefecture-designated Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Hatsuko Miyahira [1922-2022].

Born in Shuri, Naha City, Okinawa.

She conducted research on silk processing and dyeing with vegetable dyes, reproduced *ro-tonteori*, doton weaving for the first time after the war, and commercialized *hanaori* (flower weaving).

She also devoted herself to the training of pupils and conducted many studies.

In 1974, she was certified as the holder of “The original Shuri weaving,” an Intangible Cultural Heritage designated by Okinawa Prefecture.

In 1998, she was certified as the holder of the nationally designated Important Intangible Cultural Heritage, “Shuri weaving.

Sada Yonamine [1909-2003].

Born in Yomitan Village, Nakagami County, Okinawa Prefecture.

In the 1960s, she worked on the production of Yomitanzan *hanaori* (flower weaving), which had nearly ceased to exist, and succeeded in reviving it.

In 1975, she was certified as an Okinawa Prefecture designated Intangible Cultural Heritage holder.

In 1999, she was certified as a nationally designated holder of Important Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Toshiko Taira [1921-2022].

Born in Kijoka, Ogimi Village, Kunigami County, Okinawa Prefecture.

She revived the tradition of *bashofu*, which had died out during the Battle of Okinawa, opened a *bashofu* weaving studio, and devoted herself to the art of *bashofu* and the training of its successors.

In 1972, she was certified as the holder of “*bashofu*,” an Intangible Cultural Heritage designated by Okinawa Prefecture.

In 2000, she was certified as the holder of “*bashofu*,” a nationally designated Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Kyoko Shukumine [1937-].

Born in Naha City, Okinawa.

After studying textile dyeing at Joshibi University of Art and Design, she worked as an educator at Shuri High School and Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts for many years, while researching, writing, and creating works on Ryukyu and Okinawa textiles.

She is a member of the National Exhibition *kokuten* and the Okinawa Exhibition *okiten*.

In 1991, she was certified as the holder of the Okinawa Prefecture-designated Intangible Cultural Heritage “*Honba Shuri no orimono*” (The Original Shuri Weaving).

In 2023, she was certified as the holder of the nationally designated Important Intangible Cultural Heritage, “Shuri Weaving.