English



Atelier Seiran

青藍工房

Tokyo Tokushima Tateshina Miyako : Japan



青藍工房 Atelier Seiran

天酔藍色 « Tensui Ranshoku »

“This signifies that I was so captivated and intoxicated by the color indigo that I became obsessed with it.

I was born on February 4, 1931, in Tokushima to an architect father and a merchant mother. After the war, I was taught that I must carry on the legacy of Japanese culture, and this became the foundation of my work.

Indigo is the color of nostalgia and can express both ‘wabi’ (serenity), ‘sabi’ (simplicity), and ‘iki’ (elegance), spiritual concepts deeply embedded in the Japanese soul. My hometown, Tokushima, is the mecca of indigo.

Concerned by the decline of indigo due to the post-war boom of chemical dyes, I took on the challenge of approaching indigo production in a new way, expressing free-form patterns with beautiful tones and shades of color.

Believing this would help promote indigo, I built an indigo dyeing studio (called Atelier Seiran) in my garden around 1970 and began my artistic endeavors.

By drawing nature, including flowers, trees, mountains, and the sea, and then stylizing them, I created many unique works using wax-resist dyeing techniques to render them in shades of indigo. Over the past 50 years, I have held dozens of solo exhibitions, sharing my art with many viewers.”

(Yoko Hashimoto)



Selected
for
Le Salon 2022

Whirlpools of Jomi

A depiction of intense and fierce whirlpools using several gradients of Ai, the natural Japanese indigo.
100% linen, 110×90 cm, Folding Screen
(Yoko Hashimoto)



“Her work, wel-balanced overal, is reminiscent of the great Japanese painter Katsushika Hokusai, and the whirlpools are beautifuly rendered as if the animal’s claws are catching its prey.”
— Alain Bazard, Head of the Painting Division at the Salon



Expansion of the Mind

MetaMoJi's activities help to "expand people's minds" and embody the idea of "enhancing the intellectual productivity of the Japanese."
100% linen, 95×118 cm, Framed
(Hatsuko Ukigawa)

Selected *for* Le Salon 2023

Selected *for* Le Salon 2023

Dawn on Mount Kenzan

A depiction of the colors of the sunrise over the ridge of Mount Tsurugi, using various shades of indigo Ai.
100% linen, 90×113 cm, Noren
(Yoko Hashimoto)





Expansion of the Mind II

"I imagine the human brain expanding through neurons, branching out toward various substances. At times, it communicates with other brains and also receives stimuli from non-human sources, contributing to its growth."
100% linen, 90×125 cm, Framed
(Hatsuko Ukigawa)

Selected *for* LE SALON D' AUTOMNE 2024

The Scent of Plum Blossoms

"Kiyoko Hashimoto's"Scent of Plum"conveys the artist's rich sensibility. The balance between the fluidity of the brushstrokes and the rich colors of the indigo dye is extremely beautiful.With her highly accomplished technique and composition, this artist has elevated craftsmanship to the realm of art."
— Alain Bazard, Head of the Painting Division at the Salon
100% linen, 70×180 cm, Kakejiku (Kiyoko Hashimoto)

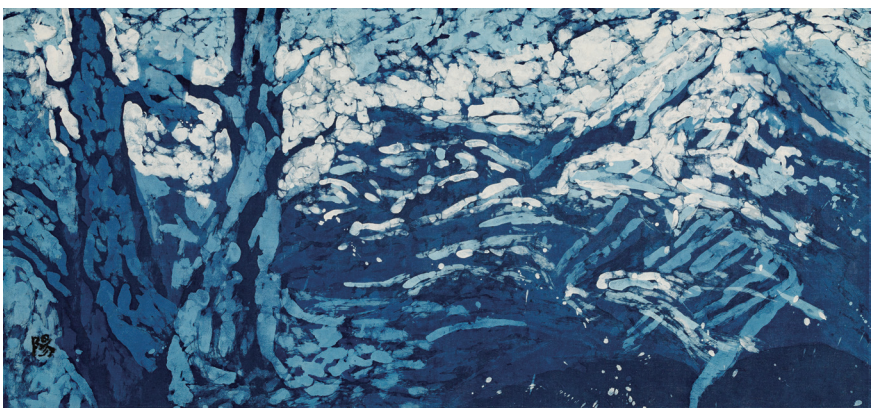
Selected *for* Le Salon 2024

Early Spring at Yatsugatake

"I depicted the early spring landscape of the Yatsugatake mountain range, whose peaks are still covered in snow. They retain the traces of winter, draped in their silvery white coats. However, at the foot of the mountains, the first sprouts of greenery begin to emerge, hinting at the breath of life. In the pure air, sunlight reflects off the snow crystals, offering a dazzling display. This early spring at Yatsugatake expresses the striking harmony between the beauty and the power of nature."
100% linen, 180×90 cm, Framed (Yoko Hashimoto)

Selected *for* LE SALON D' AUTOMNE 2024







Phoenix
We have exquisitely portrayed the legendary Chinese bird, the phoenix, spreading its wings. The front of the bodice measures 2 meters, while the back extends to 3 meters, allowing the fabric to drape generously, creating an elegant silhouette.
Organza 100% silk 150×500 cm (Hatsuko Ukigawa)

Queen of the Night
The floral language of the "Queen of the Night" means : "I wish to meet you just once," "ephemeral beauty," "fleeting love," and "sensual beauty." These meanings stem from the way the flowers bloom at night and wither by the next morning, evoking a desire to savor their fragrance and presence for longer. The term "sensual beauty" is tied to the flowers' resemblance to a beautiful and alluring woman. This piece expresses a surreal and fantastical world.
100% Linen, 150×500 cm
(Kiyoko Hashimoto)



Scarf



White birch
100% linen

Poncho



Orchids in the wind
Organza 100% silk



Noble Feather
Organza 100% silk



Cattleya
The motif of this piece is the cattleya, also known as the "queen of orchids." The beauty and grandeur of this flower, one of the most renowned orchids, have made it beloved in Europe for centuries. This work depicts a large cattleya blossom in full bloom, with the bold hues of indigo Ai capturing its vitality and elegance.
Despite the flower's majestic presence, the deep blue of the indigo evokes a profound sense of nostalgia and serenity within us.
Organza 100% silk 150×500 cm (Hatsuko Ukigawa)



Dragon
The work entitled Dragon was created by Yoko Hashimoto in the form of a folding screen. Once the decision was made to exhibit at Maison d'Exception in Paris in 2024, Hatsuko Ukigawa sought to express the theme of the dragon on a large textile. The bold design unfolds across a 2-meter front panel and a 3-meter rear panel.
100% Tsumugi silk, 150×500 cm
(Hatsuko Ukigawa)

Umbrellas

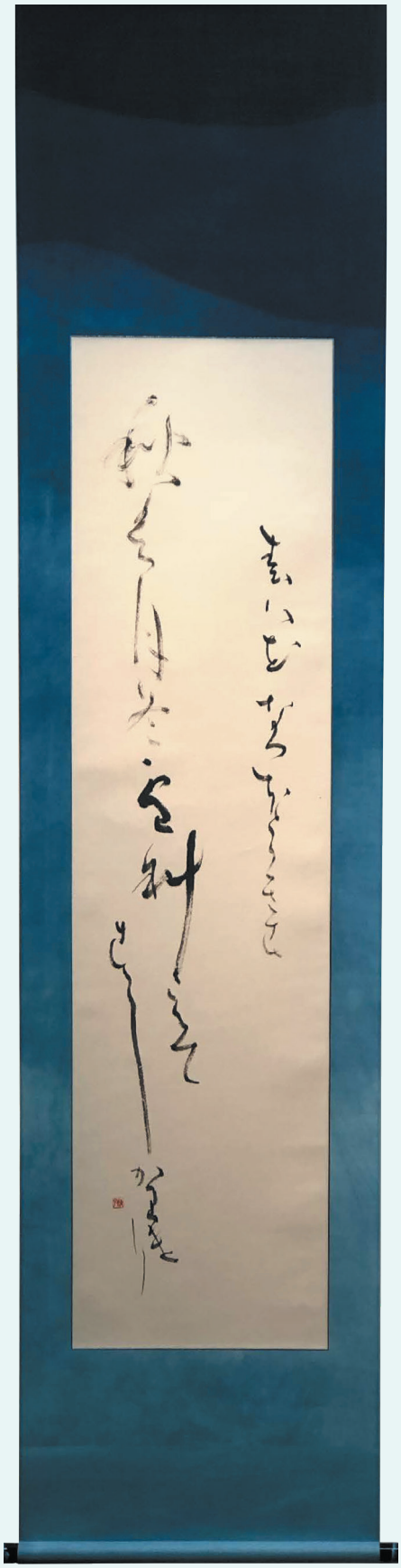


Heartbeats in the sea
Tateshina
100% linen



Sunlight filtering
through the trees at Tateshina
100% linen

Indigo Dyed Kakejiku and Kana Characters



The Song of the Four Seasons
We used a fabric with a gradient indigo dye to evoke nature through the song of the four seasons.
100% linen, 50×210 cm (Kiyoko Hashimoto)



Flowing water and plum tree
100% linen 60×150 cm (Kiyoko Hashimoto)

I was facinated by kana characters and also wandted to express the frame of the hanging scroll with my own indigo textile,so I came to create works by drawing a picture using indigo dyeing and combining it with kana text.
As combining kana characters, textiles and indigo dyeing, I successed in creating my new world.
(Kiyoko Hashimoto)



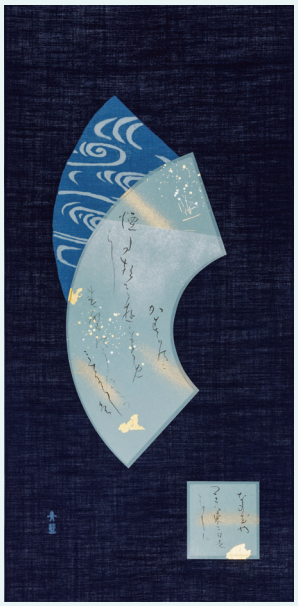
Fan and fluctuation
100% linen 38×77 cm



Stacked fans
100% linen 38×77 cm



Fan Dance
100% linen 38×77 cm



Flowing and dancing water
100% linen 38×77 cm

Kakejiku and 3D Writing



Whirpools of Naruto
(Indigo Dye: Hatsuko UKigawa, Writing: Kazunori Ukigawa)

Plum tree and stream
(Kiyoko Hashimoto)

These two works, expanding on the concept of the traditional kakemono, convey in three dimensions the movement of the brush, the variation in its speed, and the gestures made just before the brush touches the washi paper. In the background, bold indigo dye depicts waves, plum blossoms, and winding rivers.

Kakejiku of the Twelve Signs of the Zodiac

The Twelve Zodiac Signs in Western Zhou Bronze Inscriptions

The twelve zodiac signs represent the cycle of years through twelve animals. In Japan, one's birth year is recognized and the New Year is celebrated according to these zodiac signs. The typography used here is derived from the Western Zhou period (1046 BCE – 771 BCE), a time of political stability that allowed for the development of free and creative character forms.　100% linen, 58×70 cm（Hatsuko UKigawa）





Atelier Seiran was founded by Yoko Hashimoto at her home in 1970. This world-renowned atelier has produced a significant body of work for over half a century, with a presence in various regions across Japan: Tokushima, Tateshina, Tokyo, and Miyakojima. Yoko Hashimoto's two daughters, along with her students, continue to pass down the technique of wax dyeing to future generations.

Atelier Seiran
1-21 Nakajosanjima, Tokushima, Japon
Mail : info@seiran.art
URL : https://seiran.art

The process of indigo wax dyeing



1 Sukumo, a compost-like material, is made by drying the leaves of the Tade-Ai plant and then fermenting them.



2 The fermented Sukumo is placed into a vat called an Ai-Game. The temperature is maintained at a constant 25°C while the mixture is stirred.



3 As the indigo ferments, bubbles known as Ai no Hana (flowers of indigo) form on the surface. At this stage, the indigo is ready for use.



4 The design is sketched with various shades of indigo to create the initial outline. The areas where wax will be applied will remain untouched by the dye.



5 The sketch is then transferred onto the fabric. If necessary, the order in which the wax should be applied is indicated.



6 The first layer of melted wax is applied to the areas marked "0" on the fabric, preserving the textile's original color in those sections.



7 The fabric is then dipped into the Ai-Game vat for a short period before being removed. When exposed to air, its color changes from brown to blue.



8 The fabric is gently rinsed in water to prevent the wax from peeling off, and then air-dried. Indigo color 1 emerges.



9 A new layer of melted wax is applied to the areas where color 1 should be preserved. The fabric is then dipped into the Ai-Game once again.



10 A darker shade of indigo, color 2, now appears. The process of applying wax and dyeing is repeated as many times as necessary to achieve the desired number of colors.



11 When all the layers are complete, the fabric undergoes repeated dipping for one hour, followed by air-drying for about three days. This step deepens the richness of the indigo color.



12 Finally, the wax is removed with hot water, and the fabric is rinsed. It is then soaked for 30 minutes in water mixed with acetic acid to set the color. After a final rinse and drying, the dyeing process is complete.



President and member of the Salon

Yoko Hashimoto

Born in 1931 in Tokushima. Studied design under the guidance of Japanese lacquer artist Bokkei Akashi. In 1966, she received the Second Special Prize at the Tokushima Prefectural Exhibition. In 1970, she founded Seiran Koubou, Atelier Seiran. From 1971 onwards, she has held numerous solo exhibitions. Selected for Le Salon 2022 and Le Salon 2023 in Paris, and for the Salon d'Automne 2024 in Paris.



Representative

Hatsuko Ukigawa

Born in 1951 in Tokushima. Graduated in 1972 from the Department of Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Ehime University. Founded JustSystems in 1979 and began assisting her mother with indigo dyeing. In 2009, she established MetaMoJi. From 2013, she expanded her indigo dyeing work on a larger scale. In 2023, she was selected for "Le Salon 2023" in Paris. In 2024, she was selected for "Le Salon d'Automne 2024" in Paris.



General Producer

Kiyoko Hashimoto

Born in 1953 in Tokushima. Graduated in 1975 from the Department of Textile Design, Faculty of Art and Design, Zokei University, Tokyo. In 2010, she discovered Kana calligraphy and became a master in 2015. She transforms flat characters into three-dimensional forms and combines them with indigo dyeing. Her goal is to develop a new conception of space. Selected for Le Salon 2024 in Paris.