Kawatsura lacquer



Photo : Ryusuke Suzuki (R-room)

Kawatsura lacquer in Akita is a type of houseware (Japan ware) that has been commonly known to be suitable for daily use. These lacquer goods originated as decoration for samurai arms during the Kamakura period of the twelfth century. During the Edo period of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the variety of tableware and containers expanded. Today, the Kawatsura region is a unique production area in Japan that is capable of managing all the production processes of Japan ware: from creating wooden bases to finishing the lacquering of the goods.

Jujiro began as a group of lacquer producers in Kawatsura during the Meiji period of the late nineteenth century. Since then, we have been continuously creating high-quality, traditional, hand-made tableware and containers without being influenced by current trends. Instead of categorising ourselves as craftsmen or artists, we regard ourselves as simply producers. We engage in all aspects of our work from creation to production to sales to repairing. All production materials used are natural. These products are kid-friendly.

Hana-nuri (“hana” meaning flower and “nuri” meaning finishing), amongst others, is a technique of Kawatsura lacquer that allows the full natural beauty of the Japan ware to be captured. In this spirit, the finished product is lacquered, but left without a high, coloured polish.

Daily use is simple: use regularly, but gently. Even if scratches or chips occur during use, these can be easily repaired by Jujiro. If the product is used roughly, a distortion in the natural wood base may happen. As the colour and glaze of the product age, its originality is enhanced. It is our pleasure for you to celebrate the ageing and unique changes of our hand-made Japan ware.

Site officiel de Jujiro

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Fumiyuki Sato

Master of Kawatsura lacquer and contemporary urushi art.



Based in the town of Yuzawa, in Akita Prefecture – the historical birthplace of Kawatsura lacquerware – Fumiyuki Sato is a Certified Traditional Craftsperson and the creative driving force behind the Jujiro workshop. Rooted in an eight-century-old regional tradition, renowned for its exceptional durability, deep lustre and functional beauty, Sato masterfully combines age-old craftsmanship with contemporary aesthetic sensibilities.



At Jujiro, Sato oversees the complex, multi-layered process of applying natural urushi lacquer to locally sourced woods, such as Japanese beech and horse chestnut. While respecting the rigorous fundamental techniques of Kawatsura – including the meticulous undercoat and refined maki-e (decoration with gold and silver powder) – he continually pushes the boundaries of modern design. His works are distinguished by tactile, organic textures, subtle matt finishes and striking architectural forms that transform everyday tableware and tea utensils into sculptural objects.

Committed to both the preservation and the global evolution of Akita lacquer's heritage, Sato works closely with international designers, architects and culinary masters. Through Jujiro, Fumiyuki Sato invites a modern audience to discover the vibrant warmth, durability and understated luxury of authentic Japanese urushi in contemporary everyday life.



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