

OKAJIMA CO.,LTD.

SILK HANDBAGS AND ACCESSORIES FROM KYOTO SINCE 1855

Traditional Beauty and Modern Style. More than Fashion. Art.

Company Profile

Company Name OKAJIMA CO. LTD.
President Shigeo Okajima (the 4th President)
Foundation 1855 (the Ansei Era Year 2)
Corporation Establishment September, 1985 (the Showa Era Year 60)
Capital 10,000,000 yen
Work Force 10
Location HEAD OFFICE
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Holidays : Sat, Sun, Public holidays

Company History

- 1855 Usaburo Okajima founded OKAJIMA and took up the post of president.
The 2nd President Jusuke Okajima mastered dyeing work for kimono linings and led Kyoto's Yuzen industry. After World War II, OKAJIMA resumed its business under the national designation of a technique preserving industry. He invented and implemented Yuzen-nagashi.
- 1983 The 3rd President Jusuke Okajima II developed the company as a dyeing industry specializing in pure silk. He served as the chairman of the Kyoto Yuzen Cooperative Association. He received the first Kyoto Industry Service Award.
- 1990 The 4th President Shigeo Okajima developed hand-painted Yuzen dyeing on pure silk mainly for kimono fabrics. OKAJIMA started making accessories such as silk handbags and scarves.
- 1993 A new product line featuring the same name as the company OKAJIMA itself was launched and was presented in NY and Japan.
- 1996 An exhibition <Beauty of Haura> was held at Ginza Mikimoto Hall. A new brand <MAJIKAO> was launched.
- 1998 A new brand <KARAYOUZANMAI> was launched.
- 1999 A new brand <ESSEPI, > a collaboration work with the Italian company Leu Locati, was launched. Another new brand <OKAJIMA CASUAL LINE> was also launched.
- 2002 A new brand <OKAJIMA IMAN, > products made in combination of Indonesian batik and Kyo Yuzen, was launched. OKAJIMA IMAN art fabrics and KARAYOUZANMAI lacquered-frame loupes and fude pens were recognized as Superior Products by the Kyoto Design Association.
- 2003 OKAJIMA IMAN shawls were recognized as Superior Products by the Kyoto Design Association.
- 2004 IMAN fude pens and shawls and OKAJIMA Sakiori handbag series were recognized as Superior Products by the Kyoto Design Association.
- 2005 MAJIKAO reversible shawl, MAJIKAO bandanna set, and IMAN shawl were recognized as Made In Kyoto 2005 Superior Products by the Kyoto Design Association. The <collezioni> series, a collaboration work with Italian company Leu Locati, was produced.
- 2006 Published the book "Japanese Stylishness and Dandyism -HAURA- OKAJIMA Collection" through Hachette Fujingaho (now Hearst Fujingaho) in June. OKAJIMA Korea Collection was presented at the Galleria Department Store, Seoul, in November.
- 2007 Some products were exhibited at the MAISON & OBJET held in Paris in January. The company received orders from the Liberty Department Store (London) and Lane Crawford (Hong Kong). The <KITEYA>shop was opened in SoHo, New York, in May.
- 2008 Exhibited at Maison & Objet held at the Paris Nord Villepinte in January.
- 2009 Exhibited at Maison & Objet held at the Paris Nord Villepinte in January. Participated in the JAPAN Brand Exhibition held at Mitsukoshi Paris in January.
- 2010 Participated in the JAPAN Brand Exhibition held at Mitsukoshi Paris.
- 2012 Published the book "OKAJIMA Collection 'Kyoto Textile' - The Potential of Yuzen -" through Hearst Fujingaho in August

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~<Kyo Yuzen,> exceptional painting and dyeing handicraft that do Kyoto proud~

Origin of Yuzen

It is said that a folding-fan painter named Yuzensai Miyazaki, who lived in Gion, Kyoto, created designs for kimono that would lead to Yuzen in the mid Edo Era (1688-1703).

Characteristics of Yuzen dyeing

A wide range of expressions can be done like a drawing. <Shading> technique, which produces a sense of depth and movement, is used to its fullest.

Expansion of Yuzen

Using multiple colors, the Yuzen dyeing has a gorgeous yet delicate appearance. This dyeing became the dominant fashion, overcoming most other dyeing. It is said that Yuzen-dyed fabrics were treasured for their use in clothing.



OKAJIMA and Yuzen

OKAJIMA engaged in Yuzen since the late Edo Era when Yuzen started. The 2nd president, who was nominated to be a Living National Treasure, invented Mizumoto-nagashi. The 3rd president served as the chairman of the Kyoto Yuzen Cooperative Association.

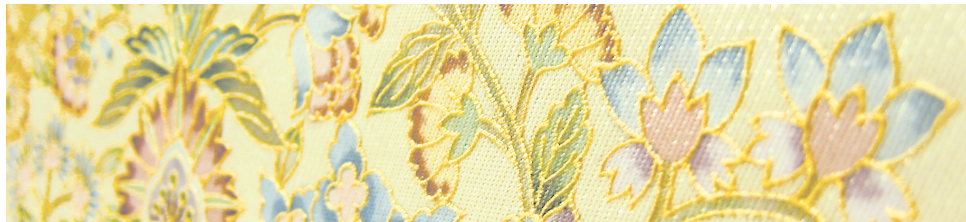


Succession and Expansion

Having engaged in public works for Kyoto Prefecture for generations, OKAJIMA is recognized as one of Kyoto's representative companies in the dyeing industry.

The current (4th) President Shigeo Okajima continues to innovate with Yuzen by making products in Kyoto, Tokyo, Indonesia, and Milano.





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OKAJIMA Star Customers



OKAJIMA has been making geiko and maiko kimono costumes for the <Miyako Odori, > one of Kyoto's spring events, since the Meiji Era year 5 (1872).



Above is the handbag that Empress Michiko purchased in Kyoto. Princesses Masako and Kiko, and Mrs. Sayako Kuroda (ex-princess) also own this type.

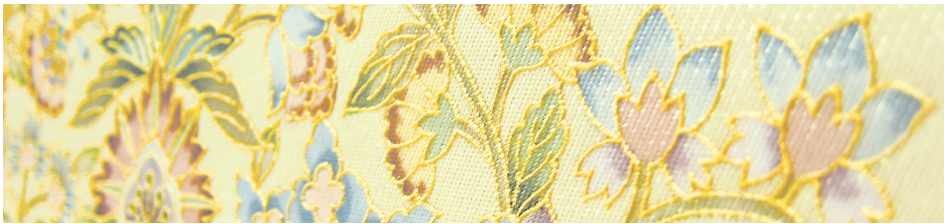


Eminent Japanese painters such as Kiyotaka Kaburagi, Seiho Takeuchi, Sekka Kamisaka, and Ryuou Kishida designed for OKAJIMA's products when they were still young and obscure. Due to a good friendship with Kamisaka, the company keeps some of his works.



- Fabrics for a formal dress commissioned for Mrs. Sayoko Kuroda's European visit.
- Kimono worn by actresses such as Sae Isshiki and Rie Tomosaka at the award ceremony of the Japan Academy Prize. A number of guests at the reception also have bags made by OKAJIMA.
- Kimono worn by singers such as Yoko Nagayama and Kaori Kouzai at the NHK end-of-year singing match.
- Kimono worn by top stars of the Takarazuka Revue Troupe at their graduation and retirement ceremonies.
- Shawls favored by actresses Sayuri Yoshinaga and Kimiko Ikegami.

※ Shawls favored by actresses Sayuri Yoshinaga and Kimiko Ikegami.



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Brand SUMMARY

The OKAJIMA collection is composed of two series; handbags and accessories, in both of which an excellent harmony of the traditional Japanese beauty and modern style is expressed.

OKAJIMA's handbags and accessories are made of high quality silk, on which hand dyeing and painting are done in the Kyo Yuzen style. Characteristics of Kyo Yuzen, are its delicate, fantasy-like designs using natural motifs and also its gorgeous dyeing expressed by color coordination. Kyo Yuzen originated in Kyoto, the thousand-year-old city and the center of cultural and artistic activities from ancient times. Its style was perfected around the 17th century.

Today, OKAJIMA brings a refined style to this silk art, making new, valuable creations. Each OKAJIMA product is made by hand, so no similar thing exists in the world. Each one is a masterpiece.



OKAJIMA KYOTO

OKAJIMA casual line series

Standard line of handbags made of Nagahama chirimen(crepe) fabrics with hand-painted Yuzen dyeing done on them. They are water-proofed, light, and durable.



OKAJIMA tinto

OKAJIMA casual line series

Line of handbags made of tsumugi(pongee) fabrics with hand-painted Yuzen dyeing done on them. They are water-proofed, light, and durable.



OKAJIMA collezioni

OKAJIMA party line

This line is produced in collaboration with the Italian company Leu Locati, a purveyor of fine bags to Royal families and first ladies the world over. This is the highest class of OKAJIMA handbag line.



OKAJIMA aurora

OKAJIMA party line

Series of fine, gorgeous, jewel-like bags, accented with hand-painted Yuzen trim