

Thematic Exhibition at Hōsa Library, City of Nagoya

Enjoying Hina Dolls

— Doll Displays of Respected Old Families of the Region —

February 3 (Sat.) - April 3 (Wed.), 2024

The doll displays that have adorned local homes since the Edo period differ in taste from the sumptuous and refined doll displays of the Owari daimyo household, featuring a familiar ease and simplicity. This exhibition presents a variety of different types of dolls from the Edo period to the Shōwa period that have been recently donated to the Tokugawa Art Museum.



Kokin-bina

	Jirōzaemon-bina		Edo-Meiji period 19th c.	Private Collection
◆	Kyōhō-bina		Edo period 18th-19th c.	Private Collection
	Kyōhō-bina	Formerly owned by Shiga Naoya	Edo period 19th c.	Private Collection
	Kyōhō-bina		Edo period 19th c.	
	Kokin-bina & Zuijin	Donated by the Itō family	Edo period 19th c.	
	Kokin-bina	Donated by Ms. Suzuki Ayako	Edo-Meiji period 19th c.	
	Kokin-bina		Edo-Meiji period 19th c.	

Jirōzaemon-bina

Attributed to the Kyoto dollmaker Hinaya Jirōzaemon and believed to date to around the mid-Edo period, these sets feature dolls with round faces, small mouths and slits for eyes (*hikime*) and hooks for noses (*kagihana*) that look like they could have come right out of an illustration from a traditional narrative tale. Such classically elegant features seem to have been particularly beloved among the upper classes and many such sets are known to have been passed down in aristocratic and daimyo families as well as at *monzeki* temples and convents housing sons and daughters of the nobility or the imperial family.

Kyōhō-bina

These dolls of townspeople were created around the Kyoho period (1716-36) in the mid-Edo period. The costumes were made of gold brocade and other luxurious fabrics and in the style of the court nobility. The dolls are usually as tall as 45 centimeters, sometimes even taller than 60 centimeters. This style of *hina* dolls continued to be made until the Meiji period.

Kokin-bina

These dolls, called Kokin-bina, are said to have been created around Meiwa era (1764-1772) by Hara Shūgetsu, a doll maker in Jikkendana in Edo (present-day Nihonbashi-Muromachi, Tokyo). The dolls are dressed in court nobles' costumes. Following the court nobles' costumes, the male dolls wear a sokutai style, while the female dolls wear jūnihitoe (twelve-layered kimono).

Despite being expensive at the time, Kokin-bina were well received and became popular not only in Edo but also in Kyoto and Osaka. The Kokin-bina style of hina dolls has been handed down since the Meiji period to the present day.



Kokin-bina and Zuijin attendant dolls



Section 2

Hina Dolls of Meiji, Taishō and Shōwa period

Goten-bina-kazari <Miniature Palace for Hina dolls>	Donated by Mr. & Ms. Shimura	Meiji period 19th c.
Goten-bina-kazari <Miniature Palace for Hina dolls>	Donated by the Hirayama family	Meiji period 19th-20th c.
◆ Goten-bina-kazari <Miniature Palace for Hina dolls>	Donated by the Terao family	Meiji period 19th c.
Goten-bina-kazari <Miniature Palace for Hina dolls>	Donated by the Komiyama and Shibata families	Meiji-Shōwa period 20th c.
◆ Dairi-bina-kazari <Miniature Palace for Hina dolls>	Donated by Ms. Tsuji Kiyoko and Murata Kumiko	Meiji-Shōwa period 20th c.
Dairi-bina-kazari <Emperor and Empress dolls>	Donated by the Kondō family	Taishō period 20th c.
Goten-bina-kazari <Miniature Palace for Hina dolls>	Donated by the Mikami family	Shōwa 4, 1929
Dairi-bina-kazari <Emperor and Empress dolls>	Donated by the Yokoi family	Shōwa 30's, 1955-1964

*All the items not indicated as private collection are collection of the Tokugawa Art Museum or the Nagoya City Hōsa Bunko Collection.

Section 3History of *Hina* Doll Festival

The origin of *Hina* Doll Festival is said to be found in ancient Chinese ritual practices, in which people went to the waterside to cleanse their bodies for purification and wash away invisible misfortunes as an annual seasonal event on the First Serpent Day of the Third Month. After the ritual, people held banquets, drinking rice wine and enjoying poetry. These practices were brought to Japan about 1300 years ago and in the Heian period (974-1185/92) courtiers held activities such as the *kyokusui-no-en* (winding stream banquet), or drinking "peach wine" on this day. In Japan, people also held rituals in which they transferred their sins and impurities onto the body of a simple paper doll the released it into the water.

Beside these, there were also small toy dolls for girls called *hiina* (miniatures). Such dolls were described as early as 1000 years ago in the *Tale of Genji*, the world's oldest novel. Combining all of these practices, the *Hina* Doll Festival gradually became established, starting among the courtiers, as an annual festival to celebrate the healthy growth of girls and wish for happy marriages for them in the future by displaying a pair of male and female dolls that resembles a Japanese emperor and an empress.

Later, in the Edo period (1603-1868), the *Hina* Doll Festival became popular not only in samurai households but it also spread to merchant families.

Section 4*Hina* Dolls around Japan - Tokugawa Yoshichika Collections

Toys that have been made with familiar materials and traditional techniques since ancient times and have been familiar to the common people in various parts of Japan are widely referred to as *Kyōdo-gangu* (local toys). The founder of the Tokugawa Art Museum, Tokugawa Yoshichika (1886-1976), the 19th head of the Owari Tokugawa family, was also known as a collector of local toys, with his collection amounting to approximately 1000 items.