Demonstration, Lecture and Hands-on Workshop with Master Handicraft Artists from Tohoku, Japan

Sunday, September 18, 2016
1:00-3:00 p.m.
JCCCNC, 1840 Sutter Street, San Francisco
FREE and open to the public
Please RSVP by calling (415) 567-5505

See and learn how these master craftspeople are carrying on their family’s artistry and make-and-take your own hariko (papier-mache) craft home.

13th generation Master Moriei Watanabe of Shirakawa Daruma has been carrying on his family’s 300 year old business by making daruma for the past 40 years. He believes that it’s important to preserve the traditional style of daruma and by doing so was recently awarded historic preservation status by the Shirakawa government as an original footprint with many areas of his workshop remaining unchanged since the Edo period. Master Watanabe’s wife and artist Sachiko Watanabe will also be here. She uses the traditional base but creates unique, specially designed daruma for events, individuals, businesses, like those for former SF Giants players Aoki and Ishikawa.

Kokeshi Master Koyo Asakura of Asakura Kokeshi Do is the 8th generation Asakura carrying on his family business of producing the Togatta style kokeshi doll. He can trace his family business back to the Edo Period (1600-1868). His shop was severely damaged by the 3.11.11 earthquake and tsunami but he was able to rebuild the studio and has been continuously making his famous style of kokeshi since. As kokeshi enthusiast know, it is important for masters to be a part of each phase of creating a doll, including the selection of the tree that serves as its foundation. Asakura uses mizuki (birchwood) and has remained loyal to his family’s 200 year process.

Minako Hayakawa of Nozawa Mingei Hin works with her father Master Hourin deep in the mountainside of Nishi Aizu. They are hariko artists and are the main producers of akabeko in Japan. Akabeko are red painted papier-mache cow that are synonymous with this region in Fukushima. Although Minako helps create the traditional akabeko that they are known for, she also creates more contemporary hariko, which include uniquely designed beko and okiagari koboushi, which are good-luck or wish charms. She paints well recognized figures and creative designs to encourage younger artists and customers to once again take interest and pride in mingei crafts.