

京漆器 象彦

Zohiko Kyoto-style lacquerware

老舗
SINCE
1661

One of Japan's leading urushi lacquerware shops that has made gifts presented to nobility. Their cups and boxes for daily use make great souvenirs.

Teramachi-dori (literally, temple town street) takes its name from the fact that many temples moved here in the 16th century, and is a street that runs through Kyoto city from north to south. One stretch, about 500 meters south of Kyoto Imperial Palace Park, is a neighborhood full of antique shops and long-established shops selling Japanese tea that one cannot help but visit. Zohiko, established in 1661, moved to Teramachi-dori from the Okazaki area in 2014. The modern, glass-walled store catches your eye. For over 350 years, Zohiko has been making and selling lacquerware, chosen as gifts to be presented to Prince Kuni Kuniyoshi, the Prince of Wales and the Crown Prince of Romania. At the back of the shop is a display of high quality articles that serve as proof of the shop's history.

While lacquerware coated with urushi lacquer and decorated with maki-e work are treated as luxury items, they can still function excellently as everyday tableware. The "Tsubomi (flower bud) cups", sold on the occasion of Zohiko's move to the Teramachi Main Shop, can be used for drinking tea or soup, and as they are made of wood, they are surprisingly light. They fit in your hand, yet do not feel hot, and are popular items that often sell out. Zohiko's goods cover a wide range, including fountain pens made in collaboration with foreign companies. Visitors from abroad have shown interest in the amenity boxes that have various uses, and have taken a fancy to the very Japanese designs of cherry blossoms and cranes. With outstanding lacquerware and fine customer service polished by years of business in Kyoto, this shop is definitely worth visiting.



↑Top: A small box with a design based on "Irises at Yatsushashi (Eight Bridges)" by Korin Ogata, who was regarded as one of Japan's representative artists. Lead and shell inlay has been used to create a simple yet impressive composition. Bottom left: Sense the coming of spring with this small box depicting a plum tree and a Japanese bush warbler. Yatsushashi roiro lacquer decorative box, ¥250,000. Early spring decorative box, ¥280,000. *All prices exclude tax.



←Bamboo plate series: Bamboo trays made by a craftsman exclusive to Zohiko. There are color variations using metal leaf and color urushi lacquer. They can be used for serving desserts or as a place to keep small accessories. From ¥3,000.



←Hand mirror series: A small mirror that can fit in your hand. With their maki-e lacquer work with typically Japanese designs, they are popular as presents, as well as souvenirs. From ¥4,600.



↑Tsubomi (flower bud) cups: Available in 3 colors; from left, a yellowish vermilion, a deep amber-like dark brown and a subdued red. The insides are finished with a layer of white urushi lacquer, so you can enjoy the various hues of the lacquer. ¥6,000 each.



↑For maki-e lacquerwork where patterns are made by sprinkling gold powder, attention is given to small details such as the size of the particles. Zohiko deals with every part of the production process, from the wood base to the final lacquer finish.

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OPEN: 10:00 to 18:00 No regular holidays

Access: 15 min. from Kyoto Station by taxi

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URL: <https://www.zohiko.co.jp/en/>

MAP 18



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