

1. Background

Housuido is the name of my ancestor's dyer's shop. In 1890, one of my ancestors, Shunji Mizuno managed the Indigo dye shop by using spring water at Asuka, Toyosaka-town Higashihiroshima-city, Hiroshima prefecture. Asuka means "the peaceful land", the same etymology of Asuka in Nara. We have some patterns and design books of those days. However in the middle of Meiji era, the cheap and easy synthetic dyes had come from Germany and soon it has spread out all over the country. And the dyer's business in the villages had become not to make enough profits and disappeared one after another. Housuido also lasted only one generation. My father Yoshiyuki has left his hometown in 1956. But he felt nostalgic and was very sorry that the farming culture was lost rapidly. So he started to collect the outdated tools of agriculture. Especially he collected the old indigo dye clothes remembering an ancestor's dyer's, with strong attachment and careful selection over 30 years. This was the start of the HOUSUIDO COLLECTION.

2. Main collection

Old indigo textiles (resist 300, ikat & stencil 100, rag 100). old glasses, clay dolls, signboards, old crafts, farm tools, etc. I keep them in my house. They are waiting arrangement.

Old indigo dye textile: all cloths of collection were used in people's daily lives. Natural indigo used all over the world from ancient. It has various attraction and ancestor's wisdom. The indigo blue is typical Japanese color. It is expressed with many beautiful Japanese words. Japanese indigo plant is strong and easy to plant. It is ferment with ash of broad-leaved forest. It is the sustainable culture with nature in the country of Japan.

- (1) **TSUTSUGAKI:** hard-drawn resist dyeing, takes its name from the tube device used, in the manner of a cake-icing-tool, to place resist paste made from rice. Many auspicious omen motives are drawn at will. There are local features in the design. There is the cloth which a typical men's name of the Edo latter period was written. MAGOZOROE is a gift for the grandchild (diaper, bath towel, and sling). We can feel spirits of many people, who ordered the textile, who made it, who used it. The various natural dyes and pigments are also interesting.
- (2) **ikat • stencil:** cloths used well in daily life. They have various devices and designs.
- (3) **RANRU:** rags used with care by putting patches on one after another till worn out. Faded colors and touch are marvelous. They teach us that a cloth was a treasure before, and give a deep impression. A piece is a history of Japanese cloth and a sample of handwork to be handed to posterity.

3, Future tasks

I hope to use the collection effectively to maintain the culture of our traditional countryside.

- (1) **Keeping:** to search the way not to be damaged, scattered and lost.
- (2) **Exhibition:** to show the people great traditional natural dyes culture.
- (2) **Study:** ① Meaning of traditional design and the transmission details.
② Research of material and technology: Production place of cotton, dyes, and pigments.