Corporate profile





BUSINESS NUMBER

COMPANY NAME(JAPANESE) 加藤木工
COMPANY NAME katomokko
YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT 1947

TYPE OF INDUSTRY Woodworking

MAIN PRODUCT Sakata Funadansu, Wood crafts

POST CODE 998-0027

COMPANY ADDRESS 7-47 Kitaima-machi Sakata

Yamagata Japan

REPRESENTATIVE Osamu Kato

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URL http://katomokko.com

Instagram <u>kato mokko</u>
Facebook <u>katomokko</u>

E-commerce Website https://base.katomokko.com/

MAIN SELLING CHANNELS

Domestic consignment sales,
Domestic EC site

SALES PERFORMANCE OF DOMESTIC AND OVERSEAS EC SALES

Yahoo shopping

AVAILABLE LANGUAGE Japanese, English

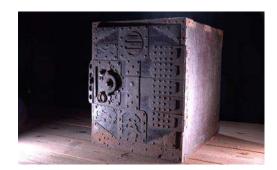
♦ EPISODE OF FAUNDATION FOUNDER'S THOUGHT

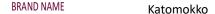
Kato Mokko is a fourth-generation family-run woodworking business specializing in sashimono--joinery for assembling wood without metal nails or screws--for making Sakata funa-dansu (ship chests), a traditional craft item of Sakata City, Yamagata Prefecture. Sakata funa-dansu chests of drawers were widely used between the mid-18th and late 19th centuries aboard Kitamaebune merchant ships mostly serving ports on the west coast of Japan. As one of the country's three major producers of funa-dansu along with Mikuni (Fukui Prefecture) and Ogi (Sado, Niigata Prefecture), Sakata attracted great numbers of skilled artisans. Demand for Sakata funa-dansu declined with the demise of the Kitamaebune shipping route, however, and today, with most homes furnished in Westernstyles, demand for Sakata funa-dansu as a utilitarian piece of furniture is all but gone, although it is admired for its workmanship and decorative value. With the loss of demand, Sakata lost its funa-dansu makers, leaving Kato Mokko as its only surviving maker continuously engaged in funa-dansu production.

❖ CRAFTMAN'S THOUGHT, COMMITMENT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY

Alongside preserving and continuing traditional production techniques so that Sakata funa-dansu can be enjoyed by generations to come, Kato Mokko is focusing much effort on developing products incorporating technical innovations complementary to today's lifestyles. A Sakata funa-dansu typically has a substantial, hardwearing exterior of zelkova, iron hardware, and lacquer coating. In contrast, its interior drawers are made of paulownia for superior airtightness--funa-dansu could be recovered from sunken ships because of their buoyancy, according to anecdotes. For exterior wood, we use zelkova harvested in Shonai, Yamagata Prefecture, thereby contributing to sustainability of the local forest industry. We also encourage local manufacturing by studying traditional iron hardware engraving and lacquerwork techniques that have lost practitioners and supporting younger people to acquire such skills.

Product information





PRODUCT NAME Sakata Funadansu [Kakesuzuri]

GENERIC NAME Funadansu(ship chest)
MATERIALS Zelkova, iron, lacquer

PERSON IN CHARGE Katomokko

PRODUCTION AREA Sakata Yamagata Japan SIZE W45 x D45 x H45 cm

WEIGHT 40kg

DOMESTIC RETAIL PRICE JPY1,000,000 (excluding tax)

Sakata City in Yamagata Prefecture maintains the tradition of crafting this type of chest of drawers, which was widely used aboard merchant vessels serving ports on Japan's west coast between the mid-18th and late 19th centuries. This chest boasts a hardwearing exterior of zelkova, iron hardware, and lacquer coating, while the interior drawers are made of paulownia for superior airtightness--a feature popularly believed to have made these chests buoyant enough to be retrievable from sunken ships.



BRAND NAME Katomokko

PRODUCT NAME Nekokeshi (shiro-kuro)
GENERIC NAME Creative Kokeshi
MATERIALS Japanese cypress
PERSON IN CHARGE Katomokko

PRODUCTION AREA Sakata Yamagata Japan SIZE W4 x D4 x H8 cm

WEIGHT 40g

DOMESTIC RETAIL PRICE JPY2,500 (excluding tax)

Hand-carved, hand-painted wooden kokeshi doll. Natural wood grains make each adorable palm-sized cat unique. The surface is left unsealed so that the texture of hinoki cypress can be appreciated. The use of water-based pigments makes this product eco-friendly.



BRAND NAME mokkodaano

PRODUCT NAME Spoon / Fork for infants [mokkodaano]

GENERIC NAME Spoon / Fork for infants

MATERIALS Hackberry
PERSON IN CHARGE Katomokko

PRODUCTION AREA Sakata Yamagata Japan SIZE W2 x D2 x H13 cm

WEIGHT 20g

DOMESTIC RETAIL PRICE JPY1,500 (excluding tax)

Hand-carved wooden flatware for children, laser-engraved with pretty face designs for happy mealtimes. Finished with olive oil (rather than synthetic sealers) for safe hygienic use without obscuring the look and texture of the natural wood.