

## Information

Okinawa used to be an independent kingdom called Ryukyu. Ryukyu kingdom established in 15th century had made its characteristic Ryukyu culture mainly through accredited Chinese envoys, tribute trades and exchange with Korea, Japan and southeast countries.

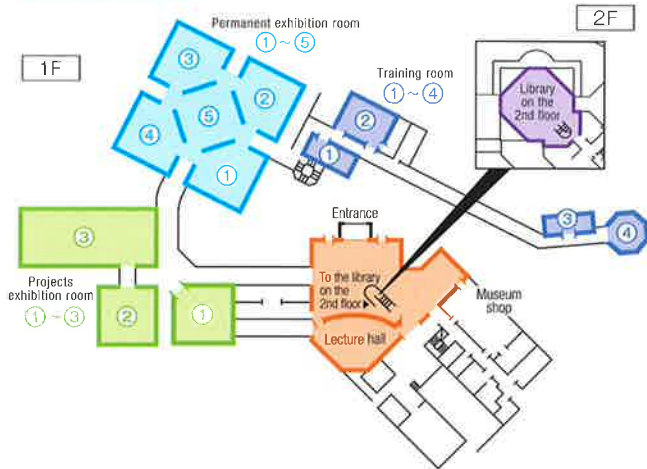
One of them is a lacquer art; accordingly it was greatly influenced by Chinese and Japanese patters and techniques. Even after 17th century under Japanese the feudal system characteristic of the Shogunate, the lacquer wares under control of the kingdom were highly evaluated by China emperor and Japanese Shogun as "a flower of kingdom culture"

In this hall, we always exhibit lacquer wares as an exclusive art museum for lacquer art, representing Asia's unique art, Ryukyu kingdom and Okinawa.

In addition, we hold various fields of art exhibitions and artists' exhibitions at the project exhibition room. We are looking forward to your visiting.

\*Tributary state •bringing tribute: One system of Ming, Qing Dynasty. When a country became a vassal state of China, safe trades and profits were guaranteed.

## Floor Guide



\*You can use lending service at the project exhibition room.



Permanent exhibition room



Projects exhibition room



Library



Lecture hall



Training room



Museum shop

## User's Guide

### Hall open hours and closed day

- Hall open hours: From 9:30 am to 5:00pm  
\*Fridays until 7:00 pm (Entry permitted until 16:30)
- Closed day: Mondays (Opens if it falls on holiday)  
During the Year End-New Year's season  
(From December 28th to January 4th)  
Temporary closing for replacement of exhibition

### Admission fee

- Permanent exhibit

	Individual	Group(20 or more )
General	150 yen	120 yen
University students	100 yen for	80 yen
Students(K-12)	Free	
Temporary Exhibitions	Fee will be decided according to the types of exhibitions.	

- Show the free ticket for the Yui-rail and get a group discount for an admission fee of a permanent exhibit.
- Projects exhibit (This is settled each time separately)

## Transportation Guide

By BUS \*5 minutes on foot from any bus stops.

From Naha outer circle-bus terminal	From Shuritorihori,
take (21)(90)(96)(112) and get off at Ohira bus-stop for (55)(56) get off at front of Art museum.	take (91)(91) and get off at the bus stop of in front of the Art museum.

### From MONORAIL

Get off a monorail at Furujima station

transfer to a bus	take a taxi
(21)(90)(96)(112) get off at Ohira bus stop, five minutes on foot.	about 3km to the north on Route 330.

### When using a CAR

From Naha Airport, drive a car about 12km to the north on Route 330 or Route 56.



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うらそえ美術館



You can meet  
Lacquer ware,  
at URASOE ART MUSEUM

浦添市美術館

URASOE  
ART MUSEUM



# The transition of Ryukyu lacquer works

	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	1900	Present age
Mainland	Muromachi Period	Warring States period		Azuchi-Momoyama Period	Edo Period		Modern period
Okinawa	Kingdom of Ryukyu ( Old Ryukyu )			Kingdom of Ryukyu ( Early modern times Ryukyu )		Okinawa prefecture	U.S. Military Occupation
Division into periods		Developmental stage for vermilion lacquering and minute gold-inlaid		lacquer ware	Flourishing time for black lacquer and minute mother-of-pearl	Production period for metal-leaf decoration	
Transition of main techniques	Formation of Kingdom of Ryukyu	Green lacquer and gold inlaid lacquer ware		Invasion to Ryukyu by Shimazu	Vermilion lacquering and gold-inlaid		Created Okinawa Prefecture
		Vermilion lacquering and mother-of-pearl work		Vermilion lacquering and gold-inlaid		Vermilion lacquering and metal-leaf decoration	
				lacquer ware Black lacquer and mother-of-pearl		Vermilion lacquering and lacquering with relief pattern	
Main pattern	•Vermilion-lacquered wooden coffin	•Wares filled with patterns and letters •Auspicious cloud pattern of the Chinese phoenix with the unique sun •Figure of flowers and birds		•Got less patterns and letters •Chinese like figure of hills and rivers •Soryu-mon design with auspicious clouds		•A lot of space without pattern •Formal figure of hills and rivers •Got more plain space •Okinawa like figure of scenery	

## Main collections - Lacquer wares -

### Old Ryukyu ( from 13th century to 17th century )

Lacquer wares from 16th century to the beginning of 17th had developed a lot in techniques and patterns through the influence from China. There are lacquer wares which are applied patterns with whole surface with gold inlaid technique on vermilion and green ground colors without any space. The typical patterns are combination of the sun, phoenixes and arabesque and also more Chinese like "Flowers and Birds" ones.



Mother-of-pearl table with vermilion peony and long-tailed cock

### Early modern times Ryukyu I ( From 17th century to 18th century )

In Ryukyu Kingdom, a lot of lacquer wares were made under control of royal government called the Kaizuribugyō (Mother of Pearl Magistrate) office, which showed Chinese sceneries and stories with minute mother-of-pearl work on black lacquer as offerings to Chinese emperors, Japanese generals and feudal lords.



Black big lacquer of mother-of-pearl work tray with dragon and clouds



Black big lacquer of mother-of-pearl work center table with hills and waters

### Early modern times Ryukyu II ( From 18th century to 19th century )

In late 18th century, they had made lacquer wares in private workshops. A lot of lacquer wares were produced with its designs patterned, which were lacquer wares designed with Chinese like sceneries in some space by metal-leaf decoration technique and lacquering with relief pattern technique on the vermilion surface. Also, in 19th century, a kind of collaborated lacquer wares are made, which means they applied patterns in Ryukyu on which surface ground was made in China.



Relief pattern saddle with vermilion peony



Metal-leaf decorated tray on vermilion lacquer with hills and waters, a pavilion and persons

### Modern or contemporary times ( 19th century to 20th century )

Because of replacement of Okinawa prefecture after disposition of Ryukyu, production of lacquer wares was transferred to private workshops. Many lacquer wares with Okinawa's sceneries as souvenirs and commodities outside the prefecture were made. Not only traditional patterns but modern designed lacquer wares have been produced. Lacquer ware industry was totally crushed because of the battle of Okinawa, but it started to restore soon after the war, many souvenir lacquer wares for military soldiers and the families were made under U.S. military control.



Ball type bonbon container of vermilion & black lacquer



Album covers with relief pattern lacquer of U.S. military tank

## -Others-

### Folding screen with a picture of Ryukyu trade port

In the center of the folding screen, a situation that a Shinko ship ( a ship loaded with tributes ) was approaching the port and Sabani ships ( fishing boats ) helping it to the port and a ship on Satsuma officials is drawn. This is also a work we can see their way of living a little at that time as well as Shri castle and the houses around the port.



### Eight views of Ryukyu ( Made by Katsushika Hokusai, 8 works in total )

There is no possibility that a painter Hokusai visited Ryukyu under the isolation policy in Japan. It is considered that he made it based on illustrations of "Kyuyo Hakkei" from a report book "Ryukyu nation" written by an accredited Chinese envoy.

