

# Kyoto Yuzen Dyeing

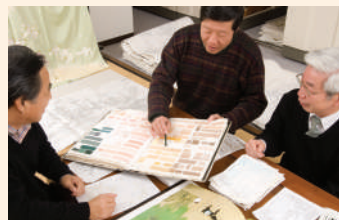
## THE ART OF HAND-PAINTING AND DYEING

### Background

Although dyeing techniques had existed since the 8th century, it is said that the yuzen technique of painting dye directly onto cloth was established by Miyazaki Yuzensai, a popular fan painter living in Kyoto toward the end of the 17th century. He introduced his own style of painting as a way of rendering pattern and this led to the birth of this handpainted dyeing technique. A multicolored yuzen was used to apply painterly designs to kimono cloths and grew in stature from the middle of the 18th century as merchant culture flourished.

### 1. Planning

Referring to various materials, the designers plan the patterns of the whole Kimono. Disposition of patterns and balance of colors are especially important, so they are carefully planned.



### 2. Rough Drawing

White silk is basted onto Kimono or Haori (Japanese traditional overcoat). On the basted Kimono and Haori, patterns are roughly drawn with special ink extracted from a blue flower called Commelina communis.



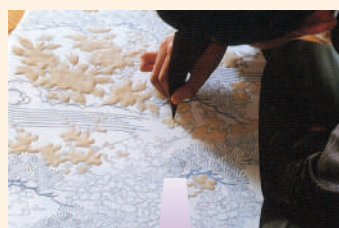
### 3. Starch Contouring

To create a delicate line, the pattern is traced over with starch from a pointed tube placed on the contours. The thread-like starch on the cloth keeps those areas white.



### 6. Masking

Before painting the background, the pattern is covered with rice starch to prevent it from coloring.



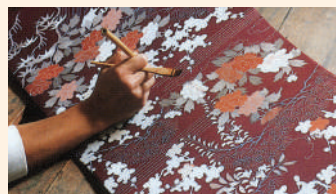
### 5. Steaming

The dyed cloth is steamed for 20~50 minutes so that the coloring process is completed and stabilized.



### 4. Painting

Colors are selected from various dyes and the patterns are painted with brushes of different sizes. Patterns are beautifully painted and completed. This is the most important process.



### 7. Background Painting

The background color is painted on the cloth with a big brush. Dyes are painted quickly and evenly on the whole cloth.



### 8. Steaming

Using various techniques, gold is added to parts of the pattern to make the Yuzen cloth more gorgeous.



### 9. Washing

Starch, chemicals and unstable dyes are washed off in running water. This process used to be carried out in the Kamo River. Now, the cloth is washed in well-equipped workshops.



### 12. Embroidery

Some cloth is embroidered with gold and silver thread. Now the Yuzen Kimono has attained its majestic and gorgeous state.



### 10. Steam Ironing

The cloth is then stretched over an even surface and steamed flat. Length and width are adjusted, and the surface of the cloth becomes lustrous and glossy.



KYOTO JAPAN

## Sarees made with Kyo Yuzen Dyeing

### 京友禅サリー

Hand-painted Yuzen is a craft developed by the water of Kyoto and the Kyoto Yuzen workshops located along the Kyoto rivers. Kyoto Tegaki Yuzen, which reflects seasonal scenery brilliantly on silk, is a "crystallization of beauty" that is made more beautiful and refined by the sensitivity of the masters of the times.

"Tradition and innovation" are words often used to describe the city of Kyoto. Traditional assets have the strength to withstand the test of time, and at the same time, there is a process of continuing challenges that has allowed these assets to adapt to the times without fearing change. This is also why Kyoto's sense of beauty is still present in the diverse yet elegant and graceful Kyoto Yuzen. We dyers, known as Sensho, are always searching for new expressions of beauty. We have created new items such as the saree, a traditional Indian dress, applying the Kyoto Yuzen techniques for Japan's formal attire, the "Kimono."

手描友禅は、京都の水によって生み出された工芸品、京都の川に沿って京友禅の工房がありました。四季折々の景色をシルクの上に華やかに映す京手描友禅は、その時代、その時代を生きる匠の感性が加味され、より美しく、より洗練されて染められた「美の結晶」だと言えます。"伝統と革新" 京都という都市を表す際に、よく用いられることばです。伝統的な資産には、時代を耐え抜いてきた強さが備わっているのと同時に、時代に即して変化を恐れずに挑戦しつづけてきたプロセスがあります。だからこそ、多彩でありながら、気高く、ゆかしい京友禅には、京都の美意識が息づいているのです。私たち染匠(せんしょう)は、新たな美しさを求めて、日々洗練された表現を模索しています。このたび、日本の民族衣装である「着物」にかかわる京友禅の技術・技法で、インドの民族衣装であるサリーなど、新たなアイテムを創作しました。



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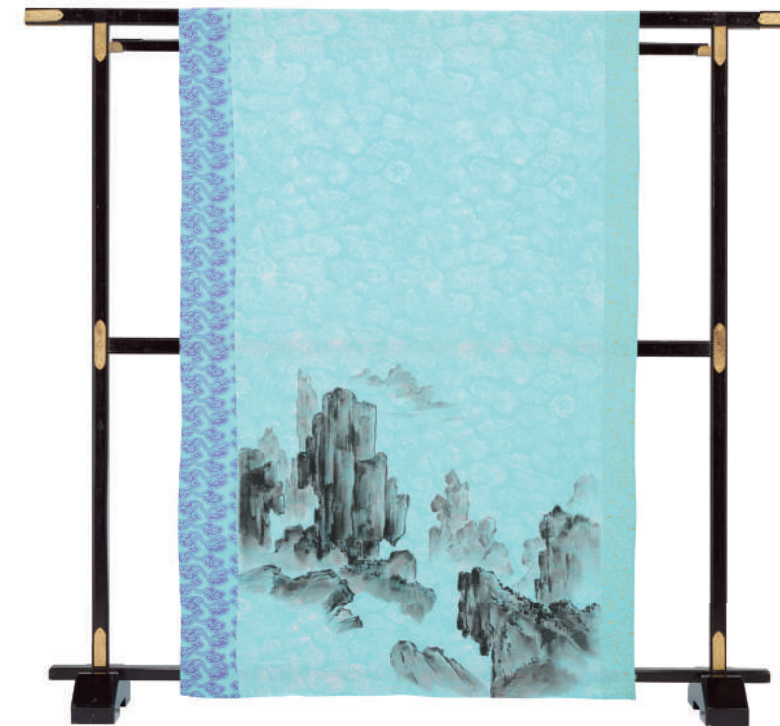






Title : Provence  
Produce : Yui Kimono Project

題名：プロヴァンス 制作：結キモノ制作所



Title : Zhangjiajie  
Produce : Komasan

題名：張家界 制作：コマサン







Title : Koki  
Produce : Kyoyuzen Sarahira

題名：工器 制作：京友禅さら平



Title : Lotus  
Produce : Takehana Sensho

題名：蓮 制作：タケハナ染匠







Title : Flamingos of Lake Bogoria  
Produce : Kiki

題名：ボゴリア湖のフラミンゴ 制作：喜々 KIKI



Title : Sarasa (Chintz)  
Produce : Kinubishi

題名：更紗 制作：絹菱







Title : Maple Route  
Produce : Muro Senshoku

題名：メイプル街道 制作：室染織



Title : Indian Sarasa  
Produce : Kimura Senshow

題名：インド更紗 制作：木村染匠







Title : Marimekko-style Nordic  
Produce : Tomihiro Senko

題名：マリメッコ風ノルディック 制作：富宏染工



Title : barren winter trees  
Produce : Nishiyama Sensho

題名：冬立木 制作：に志山染匠

