



## THE RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE

The cylindrical constructions on both sides of the facade of the Akarenga-kan are made in British Renaissance style. The main entrance is influenced by Italian Renaissance style and the copper monitor roof is typical Scandinavian style. Baroque technique is applied for the interior decorations designed by HOSHINO Osaburo. Take a closer look at the stucco decorations - flower basket with laurel leaf wreath, arabesques and acanthus.



## AKITA MUNICIPAL AKARENGA-KAN MUSEUM KATSUHIRA TOKUSHI MEMORIAL

**OPENING HOURS:** 9:30-16:30

**CLOSED:** Dec.29 - Jan. 3; during exhibition change

**ADMISSION FEE:**

*For Akarenga-kan:*

Adults (including University students) - ¥310

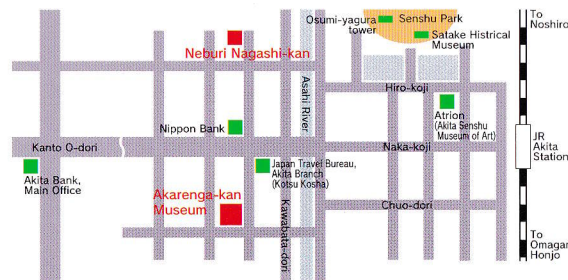
Groups over 20 people - ¥240

*For Akarenga-kan and Neburi Nagashi-kan:*

Adults (including University students) - ¥370

Groups over 20 people - ¥290

**ACCESS:** Take Chuo Kotsu bus from the stop in front of Akita train station, get off at "Kawabata iriguchi" bus stop, 1 min. walk.



**ADDRESS:** 3-3-21 Omachi, Akita city, 010-0921

**TEL:**018-864-6851

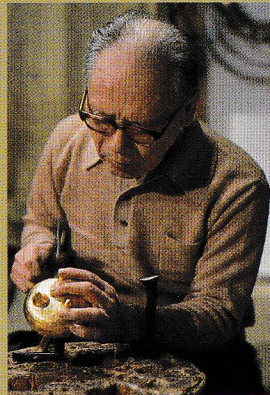
**FAX:**018-864-6854

### WARNINGS:

- No dangerous objects.
- No pets.
- No smoking and eating, except the specified places.
- No photographing or video recording inside the museum.
- Please, don't touch the exhibits and enjoy the museum quietly.

THE NATIONAL HUMAN TREASURE

## SEKIYA SHIRO MEMORIAL ROOM



SUITEKI by hagiawase (1974)

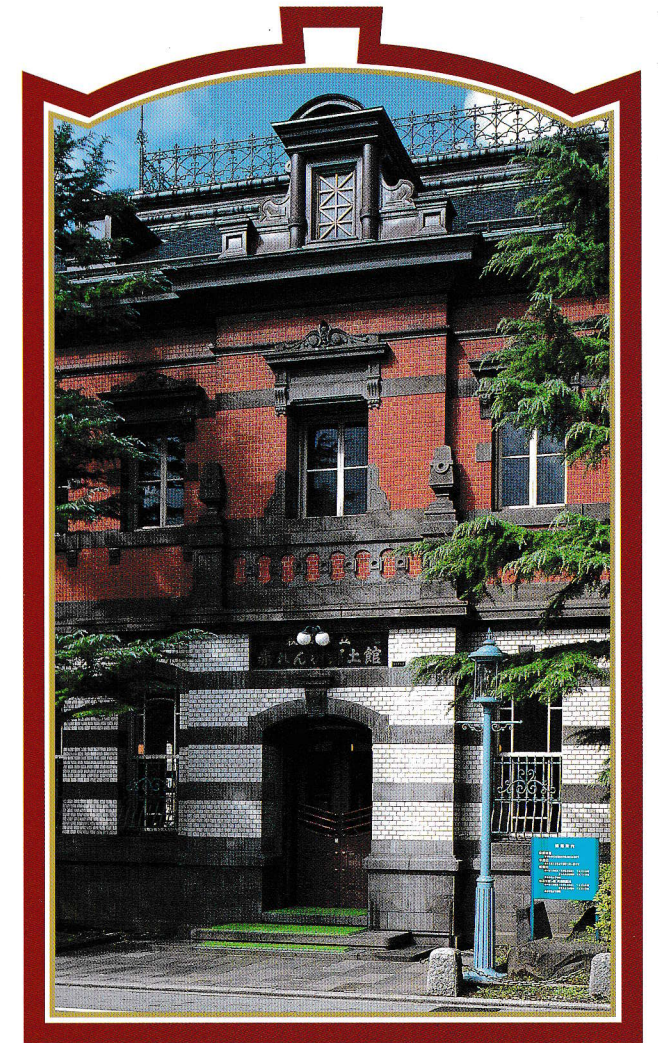
SEKIYA SHIRO (1907-1994)

Metalwork artist SEKIYA Shiro was born in Akita in 1907. In 1927 after craftsmanship studies at local silversmith shop he became an apprentice in KAWACHI Soumei studio in Tokyo. After receiving the license, he worked with different metals not only silver and bronze, mastering in the fusion technique called "hagiawase". In 1977 his work was recognized as the Japan's important Cultural Asset and he himself was awarded as the National Human Treasure. He has left great influence on Japan's metal work techniques as well as many exquisite masterpieces. The creative use of original technique he developed after long years of studies materializes in Sekiya's novelty pieces.

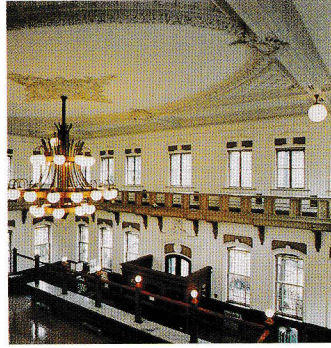
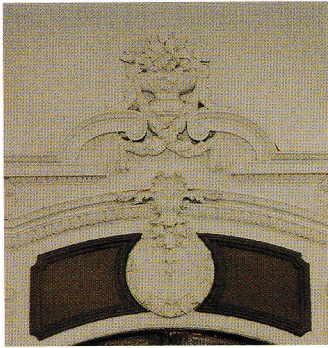


In the Sekiya Shiro Memorial Room on the second floor of Akarenga-kan museum masterpieces in "tankin" (metal forging) technique are displayed along with the tools he used to plot his artistic ideas in his studio house in Tokyo, Itabashi. A video about his masterpieces and the creation process along with information about the art pieces is also available.

## 秋田市立 赤れんが郷土館 勝平得之記念館



## AKITA MUNICIPAL AKARENGA-KAN MUSEUM KATSUHIRA TOKUSHI MEMORIAL



## FINE BLEND OF THE RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE

### THE HISTORY OF AKARENGA-KAN MUSEUM

Constructed in the Meiji period AKARENGA-KAN is the Important Cultural Asset of Japan. It is one of the few western style buildings that remained undestroyed by neither nature nor human hands. Now Akarenga-kan consists of three buildings: Akarenga-kan, storehouse and administration quarters (built later).

Akarenga-kan was designed by local architect YAMAGUCHI Naoaki. The construction that lasted for three years was completed in 1912. Until 1969 Akarenga-kan was used as the headquarters of the Akita Bank.

More than half of the time and cost were spent on the foundation works of this attractive building. Because of this it has never been damaged by earthquakes.

The exterior of the Akarenga-kan is built in Renaissance style making a nice blend to its Baroque interior. For the exterior, gray cut stones from Oga peninsula are used for the foundation, white ceramic tiles for the covering of the first floor and red bricks for the second. As for the interior, green serpentine marble is used for the lower part of the walls, colored tiles for the floor, white marble for the ascent to the second floor and zelkova tree lagging for the guest rooms.

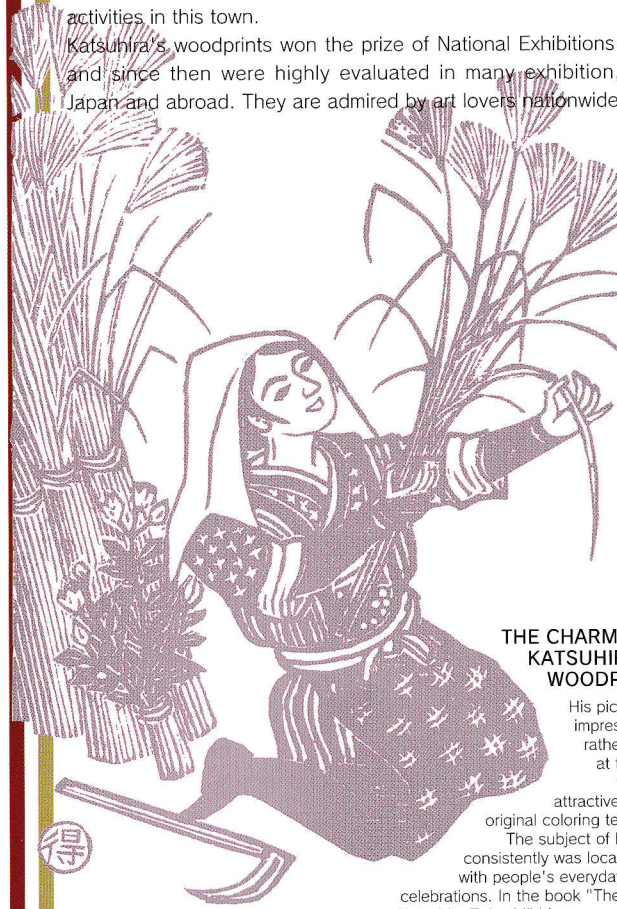
As the memorial of the Akita Bank 100th anniversary since foundation and 90th anniversary of the municipality of Akita in 1981, the Akarenga-kan was donated to the city. After the reconstruction and repair works finished in 1982, the Akarenga-kan Museum was opened in 1985.

## KATSUHIRA TOKUSHI (1904-1971) MEMORIAL

Woodprint artist KATSUHIRA Tokushi was the eldest son in the local Japanese paper craftsman's family. While helping his family in paper making he self-educated himself in three techniques of graphic art: designing, woodcarving and printing. Unlike many famous artists, Katsuhira Tokushi was not only designing, but also doing all the work of woodprinting himself.

His creativity led to invention of the original coloring of print graphics. As it can be observed, the subject of his works was local scenery with people's everyday life and celebrations. He was a real patriot of his native town Akita and all his life enthusiastically continued his activities in this town.

Katsuhira's woodprints won the prize of National Exhibitions in 1931 and since then were highly evaluated in many exhibition, both in Japan and abroad. They are admired by art lovers nationwide.



### THE CHARM OF KATSUHIRA'S WOODPRINTS

His pictures are impressive and rather simple, at the same time very attractive with the original coloring technique.

The subject of his works consistently was local scenery with people's everyday life and celebrations. In the book "The Story of Katsuhira Tokushi" his very good friend AIBA Nobutaro wrote: "Because they are very unique, his works are unmistakably recognizable after being seen only once; the essence of love to the native place are depicted with such a richness and abundance."



When icicles hanging from the eaves begin to melt and we see butterburs on the black soil still covered with the melting snow, it is spring though it comes late to Akita. Plums and cherry trees start to blossom at the same time here and by that time farmers begin to prepare for rice planting.



After the "Kashima" good harvest festival when wind breezes through the fresh green stems of rice, the short summer of the Northern Japan has started. Then comes harvest of Akita butterburs and the rainy season, after which "Tsuchizaki Port festival" and the main event of Akita summer - "Kanto festival."



When the air gets so clear that the sky seems very high and ripen ears change their colour to gold it is autumn. Though farmers are using much more machinery, their passion for good harvest never changes. Cold makes the mountains red and yellow, clouds run away faster and the frost in the air makes people feel like hot meals more often. When one looks up to a persimmon tree... a snowflake lands on the face.



Children wait impatiently for the snow - their best playmate in winter. "I like snowstorms, unbreathable snowstorms!" Colourful winter coats show the change of the season, but Akita is beautiful in the cold and snowy winter, too.