

Hiroto Rakusho

Work Experience:

Since 1984, Hiroto Rakusho has been practicing traditional Japanese metal leaf design, expanding its reach through scientific research and as an art form. He has been an active participant in digital archive projects in Kyoto since 2004.

Education:

Apprenticeship in traditional metal leaf design under training with his father, Jisaku Nishiyama, a winner of the City of Kyoto Award for Outstanding Technical Contribution to Traditional Handicrafts.

Certified by The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, as a Master of Traditional Handicrafts, 1997.

Awards & Career Highlights:

- 1999 Restored art objects at Kyoto National Museum
Completed interior design project at Nagoya Marriott Associa Hotel
- 2002 Presented "*Tsuki no Shokutaku*" (Dining Table of the Moon) at the "Table Art Exhibition" held by the World Association of Chefs Societies
Registered his name, "Hiroto Rakusho", as a brand
Founded the "*Tsuki no Kioku*" (Memory of the Moon),
Kyoto Nishijin Kimono Collection
- 2004 Opened Rakusho Gallery
Named a Director of the Kyoto International Cultural Association
- 2006 Patented his Kyo-hanga™ gold-leaf processing technique
Completed a meticulous reproduction of the folding screen, "Wind & Thunder Gods" which is a designated National Treasure, and donated it to Ken'ninji Temple, Japan's oldest Zen Buddhist Temple.
Reproduced many partitions, sliding doors and screens located in:
Nanzenji Temple, Myoshinji Temple, Shokokuji Temple, Zuishin-in Temple,
Nagoya Castle, Nijo Castle.
- 2007 Joined the TSUZURI Cultural Heritage Inheritance Project, March 2007 –
February 2010, organized by the Kyoto Culture Association and supported by Canon, to reproduce aged Japanese cultural property artworks stored nationally or internationally to make them available to public view. Emphasis is based on returning artworks from abroad, great ink paintings representing Japan and historical cultural assets. Reproduction has returned Japanese artworks from foreign museums such as, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Freer Collection, the Seattle Museum and the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Museum Exhibitions:

- 2004 Solo exhibition, Hosomi Museum, Kyoto
- 2004 Solo exhibition, Kyoto Kitazoncho Greek-Roman Museum, Kyoto

2008 “Beauty of Kyoto for the Future – Kyoto Digital Archive Movement”,
The Louvre Museum, Paris

Collaborations with Artists:

Sakaki Bakuzan, free thinker who turned his back on the establishment to create his own form of calligraphy and wrote the seminal book on calligraphy

Yumi Katsura, pioneering international Bridal Couture designer

Tsurutaro Kataoka, actor, TV personality, artist painting on glass, paper, pottery and kimonos with stylish calligraphy

Students of Palucca Schule, Dresden, through the Tanzplan Dresden project which seeks to stimulate student curiosity, artistic awareness and a sense of aesthetic, through exposure to other disciplines and collaborating with other cultural institutions.

Ralph Rucci, fashion designer & painter, “**collaboration**”, a two man show at Onishi Gallery of personal and shared painted art works, with reception at The Xchange, 2010

Exhibitions:

2006 “Releasing the Spirit of Kyoto”, ARTEXPO New York

2009 “Gold Leaf Kyoto: Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Creation of New Beauty”, Solo show, Onishi Gallery, New York

2010 “**collaboration**”, two man show with Ralph Rucci, Onishi Gallery, New York