

THE JAPAN FOUNDATION
TRAVELLING EXHIBITION
ABROAD

The 日本人形展 Dolls of Japan

Shapes of Prayer,
Embodiments of Love

Monday 12 – Friday 30
August 2013

University of Canterbury
Central Library
– Te Puna Mātauraka
O Waitaha

Hours:

Mon to Thu 8am - 9pm

Fri 8am - 6pm

Sat 10am - 5pm

Sun 10am - 9pm



JAPAN FOUNDATION

Presented by The Japan Foundation

In co-operation with University of Canterbury School of Languages & Cultures, UC Library and the Consular Office of Japan

Information: cultural.chc@wl.mofa.go.jp Tel: (03) 366-5680



School of Languages and Cultures
College of Arts



UC LIBRARY

Japan enjoys a rich culture and long history of dolls. Each doll has its own distinct meaning and purpose, and is deeply connected to daily life. Prehistoric examples of miniaturized human shapes thought to have had religious or magical significance exist in clay and stone figurines of the Jomon Period (approximately 10000 – 300 BC)

Old Japanese traditions such as Hina Matsuri (Girls' Festival) have fostered this unique culture of dolls. Such appreciation for dolls has resulted in the belief that dolls are not only children's toys but also works of art to be displayed and admired. Furthermore, familiar themes from the traditional Noh and Kabuki dramas have been incorporated into the culture of dolls.

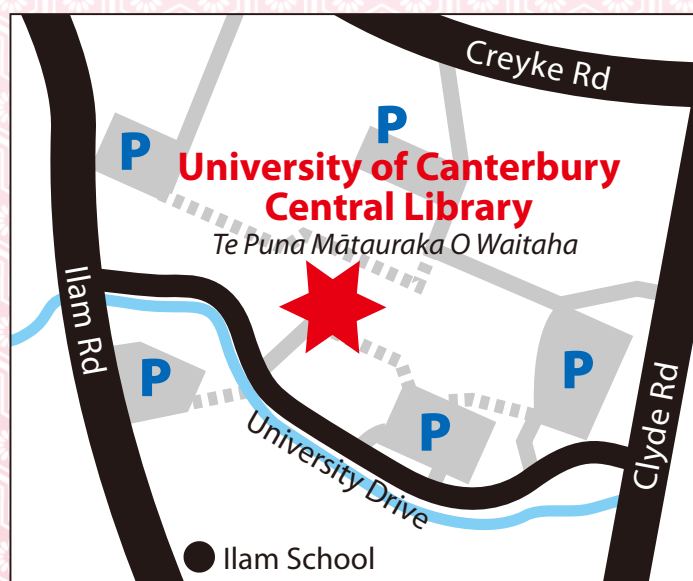
Even today, craftsmen using time-honoured methods create traditional Japanese dolls that are cherished by their owners. In an exciting development, many new artists have also emerged and are crafting unique Japanese dolls for the decorative art world.



Japanese dolls are characterized by their serene facial expressions. These delicate expressions are achieved by

carefully sculpting the outer layer of pulverized oyster shell which covers the dolls' faces. Also very important are the dolls' beautiful colours showing the richness of ancient costume and pageantry.

This exhibition introduces fine examples of a variety of dolls. We hope that you enjoy the beauty of these dolls and take away a piece of this beauty in your heart.



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