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Manami Okazaki

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Manami Okazaki : Kokeshi, from Tohoku with Love before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kokeshi, from Tohoku with Love:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. What an absolute delight for kokeshi lovers !By cricketFinally a informative and interesting book on kokeshi that is in English and available for a very reasonable price. This is not just a picture book that you will flip through and then never pick up again. I have been a avid kokeshi fan for years and will be rereading different parts of the book because there is quite a lot of information in it. Most of the book is taken up with interviews of different kokeshi masters. What a treat for those of us who can't travel to northern Japan and figure out how to get to some of the remote areas where the artists live. My sister just returned from a trip to Japan and made multiple trips up north to visit kokeshi museums etc. She bought two kokeshi books for me while she was there and was surprised when she returned and received Ms. Okazaki's book that I ordered for her from . She agrees that this is a great book.If the author ever follows this up with a book in english on kokeshi terminology (with photos) and how

to get to the kokeshi making areas, I would buy it. The author is very generous since proceeds from the sale of the book go to Tohoku relief aid. For those of you who have had sticker shock when looking for kokeshi books on ebay, buy this book now before it sells out. Great book, great purpose and great on the pocketbook. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great introduction to Kokeshi By Lita Xú Lín Kelley Great introduction to Kokeshi, but far from comprehensive. Just basic info on modern kokeshi craftsmen, nothing about marks or the vintage collectible ones 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Awesome Book! By Jennifer Harris I love this book. I discovered this traditional craft and wanted to learn more before I visited Japan. The interviews and photos are great! If you are going to Tokyo area, there is a store called Kokeshka an hour south in Kamakura. They have a good selection of Kokeshi and also other kokeshi publications (in Japanese but still helpful for locating specific craftsmen).

Kokeshi from Tohoku with Love is the second edition of the best selling book that looks at the craft and culture of kokeshi dolls. Included are more profiles, over 50 more photos and several new chapters. Kokeshi are the traditional dolls that are made of wood and are characterized by their lack of arms or legs. They are produced in the Tohoku region of Japan and were originally a children's toy, although it is more often used as a form of decoration nowadays and displayed in the home. Abroad, they are considered to be an icon of Japan, and reflect Japanese aesthetic sensibilities with their simple, elegant and minimalist designs. Kokeshi have the appeal of imperfection and hand made exclusivity as no two dolls are the same, each kokeshi embodies the qualities of wood, something that is often referred to as "warmth." In fact, for collectors, more than the freshly made kokeshi, many covet the atmosphere of the vintage kokeshi -- rather than degrading, as with plastic or artificial materials, the wood picks up a dewy, subdued colour and the delicately painted features fade gracefully with time. This book is the only English language book that looks at this culture in depth, and is the only book with English language interviews with the masters of the craft. The author, Manami Okazaki, visits all 6 prefectures of Tohoku to profile 23 artisans in the remote hot spring villages where they are made. Included are the work and interviews with the masters to the up and coming artists, and highlights many aesthetic theories and sensibilities that are prevalent in contemporary design, even today. The book also looks at Japanese hot spring culture, and Tohoku culture to paint a holistic picture of kokeshi culture. This book will delight fans of wooden crafts, Japanese culture and travellers to Japan. The book gives an insight into the psychology of the craftsman, the process of production, the motifs and the various types, which will inform the collector. This book will also suit travelers to Japan who wish to explore the Northern region of Japan, and their charming hot spring villages. Included are hundreds of photographs.

"... a delightful little book that captures the warmth of the artisans involved in creating the wooden dolls and reveals how deeply something as basic as simple wooden doll can become so entrenched into a culture." -- Japan Times
About the Author Manami Okazaki is an author and journalist. She has written 9 books on Japanese culture, art, crafts and fashion, which have been widely acclaimed by international media.