

Arts Council Tokyo Traditional Culture Program

# “Edo Woodblock Printing and Stamp Dyeing Experience” Experience Traditional Culture at The TMG observatory with a Panoramic View of Tokyo!

- Edo Woodblock Printing 14th & 17th, Stamp Dyeing 15th & 16th Specially Held for 2 Days Each -

Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture) implements various programs aimed for people who are not familiar with traditional Japanese culture and arts, like foreigners and children, to freely enjoy authentic traditional culture and performing arts, with the theme of “Approaching Tokyo Tradition”. During the 4 days from June 14th (Thu.) to June 17th (Sun.), two new programs, Edo Woodblock Printing and the origin of Edo sarasa, stamp dyeing Experience, will be held in Tokyo Metropolitan Government No.1 Building 45th Floor South Observatory East side , a venue well known for its panoramic view of the city of Tokyo.



Photos courtesy of Tokyo Metropolitan Government

## ■ Program Overview

<b>Program Name</b>	Traditional Culture Experience Program for Foreign Visitors Traditional Japanese craft (Edo woodblock printing and the origin of Edo sarasa, stamp dyeing )
<b>Dates</b>	June 14 (Thu) - June 17 (Sun) 2018 Edo woodblock printing: 6/14, 6/17 Stamp dyeing: 6/15, 6/16
<b>Times</b>	Edo woodblock printing : 11:00~ (8 times a day , 30 minutes each) Stamp dyeing: 10:30~ (10 times a day, 30 minutes each)
<b>Venue</b>	Tokyo Metropolitan Government No.1 Building 45th Floor South Observatory East side (8-1 Nishi-Shinjuku 2-chome, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 163-8001)
<b>Contents</b>	Come experience traditional culture at the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building observatory, from which the whole cityscape can be seen. Learn techniques that date back to the Edo period: Edo woodblock printing and the origin of Edo sarasa, stamp dyeing . You can make your own bookmark at the Edo woodblock printing workshop, or an original coaster at the origin of Edo sarasa, stamp dyeing workshop. Moreover, at the end of the program, you can take your work home as a souvenir.
<b>Participation</b>	Advanced application not required
<b>Admission</b>	Free of charge

\*All programs are subject to change depending on schedules.

The latest information for programs in the future will be updated on the following official website (in Japanese and English)

web

[www.tokyo-tradition.jp](http://www.tokyo-tradition.jp)

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**Touching the roots of Ukiyo-e Artists, “Katsushika Hokusai” and “Utagawa Hiroshige” [Edo Woodblock Printing] Experience**

Said to be the roots of Japanese printing technology, “Edo Woodblock Printing” has been developed by genius ukiyo-e artists such as Kitagawa Utamaro, Tōshūsai Sharaku, Katsushika Hokusai and Utagawa Hiroshige. The fascination with it is the brilliant colors expressed by its multicolored printing technique, influencing prominent artists such as Monet and Van Gogh. The skills and techniques were matured in the late Edo period and has been traditionally inherited to the present day by the hands of artisans as an art form of “Edo Woodblock Printing”.

**Activity details of the day :bookmark making**

Using tools for woodblock printing, such as brushes and burnishing disks, participants will have an opportunity to give tri-colored woodblock print a try. Pass a ribbon through the finished print and the bookmark is complete.

<<Step overview>>

- Choose a design and apply the paint and paste on the woodblock
- Place the paper and burnish with a burnishing disk.
- Print overlay colors.
- Pass a ribbon through and finish.



Finished Image

**Touching the History of Japanese “Fashion” [the origin of Edo sarasa, Stamp Dyeing,] Experience**

When a law passed in the middle Edo period prohibiting luxuries and recommending / mandating frugality allowed the shogunate to stipulate as far as to the materials and colors of clothes worn, people started to dye the lining of their “Haori”, or “Haura”, with the cutting edge pattern at the time, “Sarasagara”, imported from Nanman, and enjoyed fashion that were not seen. Though “Sarasagara”, are said to have originated in India and were printed with several woodblocks, the artisans of Edo chose to express “Edo Sarasa”, not with woodblock prints but with their mastered medium, paper stencils.

**Activity details of the day :coaster making**

Using a technique known to be the origin of Edo Sarasa, stamp dyeing, participants will have an opportunity to make a handmade coaster. With several types of stamps, participants may freely print a pattern similar to a Sarasa.

<<Step overview>>

- Choose a stamp.
- Decide on a design.
- Apply the stamp on the coaster with the color of choosing and print patterns.



Finished Image

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**Contact for this release and interviews**

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