

YUUKYUU NO KIRAMEKI

(Everlasting Twinkles)

An Exhibition of Work by Akihiko Kawamoto and His Apprentices

by Akihiko Kawamoto



The Imperial Villa (photos top and opposite page) hosted Akihiko Kawamoto's exhibition Yuukyuu no Kirameki (or Everlasting Twinkles) last July, showing a collection of the artist's work in stained glass.

June 9 to July 8

The exhibition *Yuukyuu no Kirameki* (or *Everlasting Twinkles*) was held in Numazu Goyoutei — the Imperial Villa. Unlike at ordinary galleries, not everyone can hold an exhibition here; it is by invitation only. We visited the site beforehand and held meetings with Numazu city officials many times before finally discovering the best way to exhibit our works for this special location. More than 70 examples of stained glass work by Akihiko, daughter Mie, and Akihiko's apprentice artists were displayed at this traditional Japanese house. Leaving the original imperial furniture where it was, we placed our exhibition pieces among the existing interior objects as if they were original to the location.

From the beginning of the exhibition, we received a lot of coverage from local television stations and newspapers. Also, visitors spread the word by emails and social media. During the one-month exhibition, 9,748 visitors enjoyed our works, even with a 400 yen (about \$5) entrance fee to the Villa. And we were so pleased with that. Because it is a publicly owned site,







This and opposite page: a selection of objects shown at the Yuukyuu no Kirameki exhibition.



Akihiko Kawamoto (center) with Yoshie (right) and Mie (left).



Above and above right: Two of the rooms used for display at the Imperial Villa.

Far left bottom, opposite page: Objects were brought into the Imperial Villa by wooden hand cart for display at the exhibition.



we couldn't sell our work there, but we have received a lot of orders as a result of the exhibition, and we are busy working on them.

We have already received an invitation to exhibit again next year, and we are planning to do so.

About Numazu Goyoutei — The Imperial Villa

The Villa was built in 1893 in Numazu, about 100 kilometers west of Tokyo, and was used by emperors and imperial families. In 1970, the Villa was opened to the public. This complex of buildings featuring Japanese traditional architecture is built with superb craftsmanship, and the furniture and other fittings were custom made by master craftsmen.

About the Exhibited Works

Except for Tiffany replicas, the works shown are original designs and feature colors and lines that suit Japanese taste. Glass used is from Uroboros, Wissmach, Kokomo, Spectrum, Youghigheny, Oceana, Bullseye, and Lamberts. Most pieces use came; the lamps are made using copper foil techniques. In Japan, curved lines of came and thin, smooth solder lines are highly admired, so we take a lot of time on finishing. Also for custom-made wooden furniture and partitions, we always have extensive dialogue with the woodcraftsmen to ensure perfection.

About Our Studio and Artists

Stained Glass Studio Kawamoto was established in 1987 and is located in a suburb of Shizuoka city, about 140 kilometers west of Tokyo. Akihiko Kawamoto is the president of the studio and also the main artist. His wife, Yoshie, is a studio manager. They visited the US from 2005 to 2007, working with Full Spectrum Stained Glass, Inc.; Mominee Studios, Inc.; and State of the Art, Inc. Thanks to these studios, Mr. and Mrs. Kawamoto gained a lot of experience during the stay. Also, they have attended several SGAA Summer Conferences and will continue to do so in the future, so they can refine their craftsmanship even further.

Their daughter Mie is also a studio artist, producing many fine works. Akihiko, Mie, and several other artists who were taught by Akihiko presented their masterpieces at this exhibition.