

RESOBOX

Where Japanese culture resonates.

PRESS RELEASE

November 1, 2019

RESOBOX Long Island City

41-26 27th Street,
New York, NY 11101

The SHOKUNIN Collection Vol. 1: The Evolution of Tradition by Tomoe Senko Co., Ltd



Exhibition Duration: November 4 - November 26, 2019

Opening Reception: Thursday, November 7 ◆ 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Where: RESOBOX LIC 41-26 27th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101

Contact: Takashi Ikezawa, 718-784-3680, info@resobox.com

Web: <https://resobox.com/exhibition/shokunin/>

RESOBOX LIC

41-26 27th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101 (718) 784-3680

info@resobox.com www.resobox.com

Exhibition Overview

Designing products, making products, selling products, buying products—products go through many stages before they begin their useful lives in your home. The SHOKUNIN collection is a showcase for craftspeople (known as *shokunin* in Japanese) to introduce Japanese traditional arts and crafts to New Yorkers at Resobox, an innovative arts space in Long Island City.

The first installment of SHOKUNIN will feature the venerable Japanese textile company Tomoe Senko and opens on Monday, November 4, continuing until Tuesday, November 26. Tomoe Senko, based in Morioka, Japan, has been producing hand-dyed products for more than 110 years. The fifth-generation head of Tomoe Senko, Mr. Makoto Tojo, will be making a special appearance in New York for the event.

Tradition

Tomoe Senko will exhibit *tenugui* (traditional Japanese hand-dyed towels) and *hikeshi hanten* (traditional Japanese firefighter uniforms) that have been worn during the Morioka Hachiman Shrine Matsuri (Fall Festival), which has been celebrated for more than 300 years. Each group that participates in the festival has a different design for its hanten and tenugui—we will introduce you to the distinctive designs along with the history of each group.

The craftspeople of Tomoe Senko have passed the torch to a new generation—they are young and talented, and also highly skilled. They may be young, but the craftspeople know the traditional techniques and have been creating their own new methods as well. Chusen, a traditional Japanese hand-dyeing technique, is used for tenugui and kimono. Nassen, another traditional hand-dyeing method, is used for hanten, noren (fabric door panels), and flags. Tomoe Senko has specialists in these two different methods, and there are also steaming and washing craftspeople who make the products possible. All the craftspeople put their hearts into their work, using skills they have perfected over years. We hope you will see and feel their passion through this exhibition and take some of it home with you.

Evolution

The fifth-generation owner of Tomoe Senko, Mr. Makoto Tojo, has opened two new factories near the original factory. He has incorporated new technologies and developed new products. Because the artisans of Tomoe Senko have mastered traditional hand-dyeing techniques, they can use those as a base for creating new ideas, giving them unlimited possibilities. Tomoe Senko also has its own sewing team, so from dyeing and printing to finishing the final product, many skilled people put life into the cloth. Tomoe Senko will be bringing new products, including printed sashiko clothing and goods, for this special event.

We will have an opening reception on Thursday, November 7, from 7pm to 9pm. Our sponsor Sake Discoveries will provide Nanbu Bijin, producer of award-winning Japanese sake, as welcome drinks from Iwate throughout the evening. During the reception, we will connect the dye house with RESOBOX via the Internet, so you will have a chance to meet the shokunin who made these beautiful products and share a moment of time together. Attendees will also receive a special free gift, the Tomoe Senko exclusive “Three Most Famous Noodles” tenugui!

RESOBOX LIC

41-26 27th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101 (718) 784-3680

info@resobox.com www.resobox.com

You can take part in a hand-dyeing workshop on Saturday, November 9, and Sunday, November 17.

If you have any questions, please contact the organizer of SHOKUNIN:

Ruri Kippenbrock
Wuhao New York, Inc.
212.231.8126
info@wuhaonyc.com

RESOBOX LIC

41-26 27th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101 (718) 784-3680

info@resobox.com www.resobox.com

Photo Gallery



RESOBOX LIC

41-26 27th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101 (718) 784-3680

info@resobox.com www.resobox.com