

Fifth Anniversary Special Exhibition : THE Iwatsuki *Ningyo* History

Dates : October 4th (Sat) - November 30th, 2025 (Sun)

Organizer : Iwatsuki Ningyo Museum

Overview of the Exhibition

Saitama takes pride in being the prefecture in Japan with the highest total shipments of *hina ningyo* and other *ningyo* for seasonal celebrations. Iwatsuki ward in the city of Saitama, is one of Japan's most important *ningyo* production centers. Iwatsuki *Ningyo* and Edo *Kimekomi Ningyo*, both of which are made in Iwatsuki, have received the Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI)'s designation as Traditional Crafts. Stroll through this neighborhood and the signs for *ningyo* shops and workshops catch the eye. Here craftsmen are creating *ningyo*, every day.

In the Edo period, Iwatsuki was the Iwatsuki domain castle town and a post station on the Nikko Onari-michi, the pilgrimage route to the Nikko Toshogu, where Tokugawa Ieyasu is enshrined. In modern times, it flourished as a *ningyo* production center. In this exhibition, we reflect on Iwatsuki's history, displaying materials related to the daimyo families that ruled the Iwatsuki domain, and then introduce the process of its transition from castle town to "*Ningyo City*." The exhibition includes gorgeously costumed *hina ningyo* and charming Edo *kimekomi ningyo*, with their rich range of expressions, that Iwatsuki craftsmen, with their masterly skills, have created. We invite you to enjoy the world of *ningyo*, a quintessential aspect of Japan's traditional culture.



About the Iwatsuki Ningyo Museum

On February 22, 2020, the Iwatsuki Ningyo Museum opened in the city of Saitama, in the historic *ningyo* district of Iwatsuki. The Iwatsuki Ningyo Museum collects, conserves, and carries out research on *ningyo* (human figures) and the culture of *ningyo* and, through exhibitions and educational activities, carries out programs to enable more people to become familiar with this craft and its culture.

Our goal as a museum is to be a facility that anyone can freely enjoy, to provide an overview of the beauty and history of *ningyo*, in the context of Japanese culture, and to inform the world about that *ningyo* culture in all its fascination and depth.

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(The Saitama City Iwatsuki Ningyo Museum)

WEB: <https://ningyo-muse.jp/>

IG : https://www.instagram.com/iwatsuki_ningyo_museum/?utm_source=qr



WEB



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