

Persons who Compose Stunning Beauties

Miyuki Miyoshi

Translator Yoko Mukai

Mrs. Miyuki Miyoshi who is the wife of “Miyoshi Fish Farm” owner and had been deeply acquainted with the legendary Nishikigoi (which are specific beautiful colored carps; and, hereinafter called as to Koi, or Nishinkigoi for specialized from usual carps) breeders and or masters, gave to us the words of the gods of the predecessors who had taught the stunning beauties to Mr. & Mrs. Miyoshi, while weaving actual images. We believe she is also a person who is composing such stunning beauties in the world. Thank you very much for her.

(by editor)

Prologue: “Nishiki”

“Mr. Miyoshi,” Mr. Heikichi Ogawa, who was the first owner of Ogawa Fish Farm (hereinafter called as to “Heikichi-san” instead of Mr. Ogawa), called my husband as his surname, at that time; and, he kept going to say that “even if you keep the two-years-old one which you chose earlier, over 100 years, that carp could not be the “Nishikigoi.”



Mr. Heikichi
Ogawa

My husband, the given name is “Shozo” was threw such shocking words by Heikichi-san; then, was frozen on the spot because the words are very tough for my husband.

I cannot forget the moment. It was the spring in 1983, called Showa 58 years, in Japan.

He continued,

“Nishiki, which is the etymology of Nishikigoi, there are. Have you seen them? Also, Nishiki is the most high-quality fabric in Japan, using silk threads dyed in various colors. Those are gorgeous and luxurious, very elaborate textile woven with real gold threads and or silver threads, also used gilts and or silver foils, too.”

“Only very high-quality classed ladies in Japan as in Heian Period were able to wear the fabrics, as called “Juni-Hitoe*1”.

The flags that the government officials raised were created by Nishiki and, the batting warriors in the Sengoku era*2 also wore them above the armors. Also, in the both Noh*3 and Kabuki*4, high-ranking characters are wearing Nishiki costumes.”

“In other words ... Koi should be high-grade, if you call them as to Nishikigoi.

However, the fish you chose earlier is just a colored carp. We, as professionals Koi makers and or farms owners, should choose one with dignity and has high possibility to be Koi, not just a carp from young them.”

“You cannot be a Nishikigoi farm owner if you will still keep going to choose as you have done, only for adjusting customers’ likes. You will be just a colored fish farm, only.”

Heikichi-san slashed my husband’s mind so gleefully with such words.

My husband says that the words at this time still seize themselves in his mind and did not depart from him; also, the words changed his Nishikigoi fish farm’s owner life to be much better.

Meanwhile, I was listening to those words with a subtle appearance. However, my inner feeling was “We were able to meet a great person!” as the bells of delight were ringing in my mind.

Until the moment, even I was just married with my husband; but, I had been little aware of as the wife of the Koi fish farm makers’ owner. I had spent my days without being particularly interested in Nishikigoi. After the event, my curiosity about Koi and the beauty was strongly awakened with Heikichi-sans’ words as step by step.

As I was completely drawn into his world; and, becoming completely happier than before. Then, he told me, as he knew my feeling, like spanning my mind;

“You should not be blurred as you are now, please find out something only women can do for him, and demonstrate such internal helps as the wife of the Nishikigoi fish farm owner.”

“First of all, after you go home, please

show him a genuine Nishiki. If you search inside your chests, there would be one or two Nishijin-ori^{*5} belt, would not there? Please show the best one which you think to him.”

Now, the time of thirty-four years has passed. If I did not receive those words from him on that day, I would not be absorbed in the study of Nishikigoi feeds, as today. I am filled with all my heartfelt gratitude.

Seeing Is Believing I

Well, I returned home from the Ogawa Fish Farm, as Heikichi-san said, I immediately showed the Nishijin-ori belt to my husband.

Why Heikichi-san said to me exactly “Nishijin-ori,” could be “Nishijin-ori” is considered to have the highest dignity grade in the Nishiki fabrics. The belt of the photograph is a Nishijin-ori tightened only once when I attended my celebrating ceremony for becoming 20 years old.



*This picture is a Japanese traditional belt using “Shochikubai^{*7}-Kikko^{*8}-Mon^{*9}.”*

The belt is only for wearing, when there is the good time as congratulated, with just auspicious patterns engraved. The golden parts of the belt are still very

shiny even which was made more than forty years ago ... The golden parts were called as to “Hikihaku.” Hikihaku is made that the gilt pieces put on the traditional Japanese paper called “Washi;” then, slightly peeled from the paper like as threads. Then, those are put into the textile, which is very difficult way to create. These parts of the belt give the refreshing beauty with in such a lot of lucky patterns.



This “Kuro^{*10}-Tomesode^{*11}” is the most acting for verifying that Heikichi-san and Mr. Mano had talked about Nishikigoi using the Japanese traditional wearing, Kimono. I am surprised that various elements were studded in this one. Although I had few times to wear this Kimono, this had done a pretty good job for us.

The design is “Kyo Yuzen^{*12}” dyed a scene of called as to “Sho-jo^{*13}” which is featured in various performing arts such as Noh and or Kabuki. Mr. Mano told us the sunken black colored areas of “Kato Showa,” which is a specific Koi name, using the “Shibori-Zome^{*14}” of one type of creating patterns of Kimono. In addition, Heikichi-san taught using Japanese Kimono areas which are just colored but not patterns, means “the beauty of blank spaces” can stir up the imagination of people and show us invisible sceneries.

When I was young, I wore the above Kimono with the below Nishijin-ori belts. Formally, there is a rule in Japan that we should wear a belt using gilts to make it when we wear the Tomesode. I love these luxurious Obi belts.



“When I actually touch this with my hands and see this with my eyes, my mind can feel the words which Heikichi-san said to me, deeply” my husband said.

After the time, when my husband has some hesitations or something in his mind, he deeply sees belts of Nishijin-ori. In such time, when I ask him what are you doing now, then, usually he said, “I am trying to return my mind to the beginning time.” At that time, I think perhaps he is trying to feel Heikichi-san’s sympathy, desperately.

To me, it was obvious that you can obtain lots of things from seeing real things, according to my husband way.

Both masters of Mr. Heikichi Ogawa and Mr. Minoru Mano (the president of the first Dainichi Koi Farm) whom we, my husband and I love both, had gave to tell us the beauty of Koi using Japanese traditional culture, especially traditional wearing. So, in each case, as much as possible, I chose the belt and or Kimono*⁶ that should be a perfectly matched one for their thoughts and showed them to my husband.

“The five senses will be sharpened by not only looking at them but also checking and touching the texture, listening to the sound of the clothing deviation, enjoying the fragrant incense.” Heikichi-san said that to us; so, I believe it and have done with my husband.

Actually, interesting things that support the effect occurred, just recently.

There is a person who is a young Koi breeder and come to see us sometimes. And, when my husband was talking some stories from Heikichi-san gave to tell us in the previous days, as usual. Then, I realized that my husband’s mind was not transmitted to him so easily. So, I picked

up the belt which I wrote, and other two or three belts made by Nishijin-ori; then, I showed them to him. Then, his eyes became shone quickly, and began to describe wonderful impressions more than I had anticipated.

I and my husband smiled, nervously because of the effect more than we thought. It is completely good example that “Seeing Is Believing”

Seeing Is Believing II

It was about thirty years ago from now. When we were choosing two-year-old Kois at Niigata’s Dainichi Koi Farm, Mr. Mano was tilting his head, and said, “I think Sho-chan does not respect Koi which is called “Aka-sanke*¹⁵.” You need to know and feel the significance of “Aka-sanke.”



Mr. Minoru
Mano

“This is a story that I heard from a Geisha*¹⁶, Geishas wear a special black Kimono all at once, at the beginning of the first day of the working on the New Year. The special black Kimono has hem patterns, called as to “Suso*¹⁷-Moyo*¹⁸.” And, they compete each other whose black Kimono is good.”

“Kimono which is black but not just “black,” meaning carrying a good deeply black color is made a specific way called “Beni-Zome.” The textiles are dyed to be red color at first. Then, after that, it is dyed again to be black*¹⁹. Those are expensive; however, that black color is too beautiful to explain, the Geisha told me that story.”

“After I heard the story, I came back to my home; and, I compared the black color spots on the white area of Koi and the black one on the red area of Koi, very



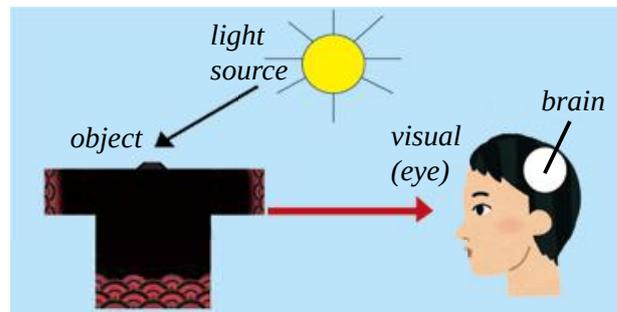
The nickname is a “ladybug.” We can see that the black spots are much visible on the red area of her.

closely. Then, I realized that the black spots on the red area of Koi are more exquisite than the black one on the white area.

As soon as we came back to our home after we heard the story from him, I showed my husband one of Tomesode using the “Beni-Zome.” However, it seems not so impacts on my husband. He said “I cannot compare to the other black Kimonos; so, it is difficult for me to understand deeply in my mind.”

My husband understood the true value of this Tomesode, after when we attended our relatives’ wedding ceremony. My Tomesode which I wore was conspicuous because the Kimono is much darker and deeply black.

“Beni-Zome’s black is completely different from usual black,” my husband said. After that, my husband started to respect



Humans can not recognize colors in the dark. Watching color for humans needs three elements at least of "light source", "object" and "visual (eye)."

An object that appears black looks black as it absorbs almost all light when it hits sunlight. On the contrary, an object that appears red appears to be red because it reflects a lot of longer wavelength light. Since the color of the object reflects different wavelength ranges depending on each color, it will have different colors.

Mr. Mano felt that the black color on the red color is more tastefully than the black color on the white background. The reason why is perhaps attractive to humans by adding a long wavelength of red than just a single color black only. Kimono dyed by Beni-Zome cause the same effect with the colors wavelengths.

the “Aka-sanke” without blurring, also, no matters who have said the way is out of current styles.

But, as for me, I will not be over the matter. Why the black spots on the red area of Koi are exquisite? Why the Beni-Zome’s black seems more beautiful than usual one?

My mind is not satisfied and not completely agrees to things if it is scientifically difficult to explain. Thus, in my mind had not been so clear for many years. Anyway, after all, I have come to terms with our own feelings with the factors as shown on the above causing the effect.

It was just after Kato Showa won the Grand Prix. My husband asked Mr. Mano, “Is that sinking black spots (means seeing light black in the picture) coming out someday?”



Then Mr. Mano said, “If those light black spots will come out, it’s okay but if not, it’s ok, too; however, if I should choose which one, then, I prefer not to come out the black any more so clearly, because those are “Shibori as Kimono” for the Koi, which mean that those are good accents for the beauty, I believe, don’t you think so?”

“Originally it has three colors; however, the light black spots as sunk black produces as four colors, or fifth colors, as well. That is why, Kato Showa is not monotonous; and, it will not let the viewer be boring.”

I think that the parts of “Shibori” of my Kimono have become good accents for the Kimono, too. If those parts were red or white only, it probably would have been a boring piece.

We had been told over 100 times

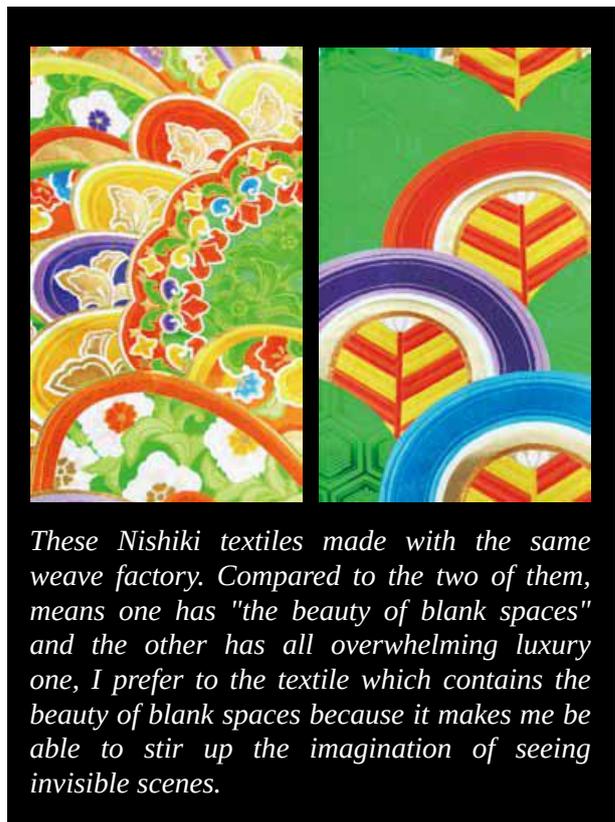
about “the beauty of blank spaces” can understand if you look at this one Kimono (please see pic A).

“Even you would research all times and places in the world, only the Japanese traditional ethnic costumes, meaning Mano have the beauty of blank spaces. The beauty of blank spaces can play like the Microcosm. The beauty of the blank spaces can make person who look at them image many scenes even un-visual scenes.” Heikichi-san said to us many times for us.

Since my husband was young, he had been told the importance of the beauty of blank spaces. Thus, my husband has always thought the beauty of blank spaces. And, even for our dinners which I made, he sometimes complains that your ways of serve side dishes.

“I cannot feel the beauty of the blank spaces at all in your ways of the serve side dishes.”

I said “I am not professional chef”;



These Nishiki textiles made with the same weave factory. Compared to the two of them, means one has "the beauty of blank spaces" and the other has all overwhelming luxury one, I prefer to the textile which contains the beauty of blank spaces because it makes me be able to stir up the imagination of seeing invisible scenes.

then, he says, “Daily care for everything is important.” as if he becomes the Petit Heikichi-san.

Maximum Simple indeed, the most beautiful Nishikigoi

“Mr. Miyoshi likes Koi as the Rias style coast, as usual...I says this many times to you, carps you have selected is the patterns is too much works and not has dignity as Koi.”

“The dignity and or quality are more important than patterns. There are differences according to the races or colors of skins as human being. Then, colors or clothing whether suitable or not should be different per each race or colors of skins. As human costumes, I said now, the patterns should be matched with the dignity and or qualities per each Koi. So, patterns of Koi are changeable how to fit for per each, according to the dignity and or qualities of Koi. Thus, you should remember the dignity and or qualities are first to think to select them, then, secondly the patterns for selecting Koi.”

“Also, you are too tied up with a boring stereotype. If you say that Nishikigoi is kinds of art; then, it should be more uncontested and free. There is no art that is not free.” As always, Mr. Heikichi was calm; and, he knocked down my husband’s mind until perfectly.

My husband had seemed to be waiting just for the storm to pass. Usually, Heikichi-san, called my husband, “Sho-chan,” as a young friend with warm mind. However, when my husband made Heikichi-san get furious, he called my husband “Mr. Miyoshi,” instead of “Sho-chan.” Miyoshi is his surname, and Shozo is my husband’s given name. And, “chan”

is for preferable young persons in which we call. So, it is easy for me to understand Heikichi-san’s feeling with the calling for my husband.

My husband said many times that, when Heikichi-san called me as Mr. Miyoshi; then, my heart started pumping a lot and had felt as my heart comes out from my mouth with my stresses and mind broken. Then, my mind completely broken with his words with realizing my conducts were bad.

However, after he had told a lot to improve my husband even very strictly, Heikichi-san had always said good words for securing my husband mind as I had been enchanted by his words

“Well, Sho-chan..., I watched a TV show about a female painter who draws only polka dots, recently. She is admired in the foreign countries more than in Japan.”

“Is not that Ms. Yayoi Kusama*²⁰?” I said; then, Heikichi-san said “Oh yes, may be such a name. Those are mysterious pictures. And, my mind was strangely pulled into them.”

I said that I was a little bit surprised that you evaluate Ms. Yayoi Kusama. Then, Heikichi-san said, “Those pictures are not for just seeing. You should just feel them. Those kinds of pictures do not have shadows and simple. And, we do not need any common words to explain them. So, even if those are not evaluated in Japan, because Japanese art critics who are kneading many words, in abroad, people evaluate them, properly. Additionally, the sense of tension polka dots drawn by her is creating a strong impact with the blank areas in the background.”

“As the picture, Nishikigoi’s colors not only red but also white areas are also



A work by Ms. Yayoi Kusama is also outside the exhibition hall. Name of a work called "Ascension of polka dots on the trees." We just enjoyed feeling her works, without thinking such small things, as following Heikichi-san had told us.

patterns for creating the beauty. Please do not forget about that."

At the time, red and white colored Koi named "Kohaku" of Nishikigoi, especially with a white background seems to be real good patterns had been like a monopoly patent of "Ogawa Kohaku." As soon as this magazine, RINKO had come to my home per every month, I remember that my husband opened the advertisement pages of the Ogawa Fish Farm at the first time; then, he seemed to admire a lot, especially the pattern of the white background patterns.

Even Heikichi-san had made our mind move and admire his sense of the beauties, he also have like an inverse side thinking about the beauties compared to the advertised Nishikigoi in the magazine. So, sometimes, we had been surprised at his senses of beauties.

"I also like masks made by the indigenous people of the Amazon are or African. There are simple tastes, somewhere humorous... Those kinds of things may be the origin of art, itself." Well, this was another surprising story for us.

I said to Heikichi-san that if you say masks, you would say you like the masks for the Noh.

"Hoho ho ... is that person like me? Yes, the masks of the Noh also likable for me, because there is goodness sharpened by historical ways. However, I am not bound by the boring stereotypes as Shochan; so, I can fairly evaluate what I like."

"While my eyes are black, I want Shochan to graduate from just as a papier-mache carps' sellers to be a master of Nishikigoi who can seek Koi which is maximum simple indeed but most beautiful ones.

Great prediction from Heikichi-san

It is no need time for me to become an enthusiastic follower and believer of Heikichi-san, because no matter whatever question I asked, I immediately got a nice answer rich in humor and esprit.

I'm not sure when I asked but I did that why people are absorbed in Nishikigoi

so much?

“Well, it’s not that people live on bread alone ...”

“When people who experienced very tough time as living or dying between the time of war or after the war, experiencing a huge experience of eating or not eating; then, enough for clothing, shelter and living; then, the lives become rich. Then, this time as to seek the abundance of their minds as well. Well, same as I did, after my body nourishment came better and better, we want nutrition for my mind, next. Well, in that sense, Nishikigoi could be a much more symbolic of peace than that of pigeons.” It seems like them, he gave me answers as no leak water from his words as well.

“Nishikigoi are spreading to Europe and the United States step by step, recently. Please see the situation day by day. Now, as poor Asian countries become enriched, Nishikigoi will surely be able to sell explosively. Those who have met tough situations, they would want enjoy affluence. Like the Japanese now ... “

I wonder if it is true then, when I heard from him? Although I thought, the superb predictions were positive. Heikichi-



san makes me shiny till even after his death.

There is a belt of Obi created from Nishiki which is fancy enough to be amazed, here. This is made from Nishijin weave, and made around

Showa 50 years period.

If you look at this now, you might feel it is not cool; but, I feel the joy of freedom that expresses the minds of the Japanese at the time. I feel as it is smiling with joys. Because it was used the plenty of excellent silk threads, it has heavy weight and luxurious.

Compared to this, the recent belts of Obi are fluent and poor materials. I saw even the pattern of black roses, cattleya and or skulls with glittery using lames for the belts of Obis.

Do such eccentric belts really match with Japanese? Heikichi-san said as before,

“As the clothing that suits you depends on the color of the races and or skins, Nishikigoi also changes which patterns are better or not is depending on the quality of the quality...” I remind such words when I see such items.

I learned the weight of words that he hit on my husband, “The carp you choose is just a colored carp.”

The esthetic eyes of masters of Koi

My husband and I are recently into going around the Kimono shops. Instead of numbers, we have just almost of all times spent just taking to look at them, not buying.

It is stimulating and good studying comparable to museum visits, visiting old-established shops, watching Kimonos and the belts stories and appreciating valuable clothing.

The beginning was about a year ago. It was a visiting to one familiar Kimono shop for us. It was a great moment; so, we decided to be shown their Kimonos and the

The words of Heikicki-san, are still moving our minds

Taro Okamoto
Memorial Museum



“When you see the work of Picasso, you would exhaust your energy; however, please go to see the pictures of Taro Okamoto, because you can get energy from his works.” Heikichi-san said to us so many times. So, we have been his work exhibitions many times; then, my husband became a fan of him, completely.

*In this year, we went to the Taro Okamoto Memorial Museum^{*21}, which was Taro Okamoto residence. We felt his breathing at his atelier. The innumerable canvases in the atelier was as attractive as I wanted to pull out all the pictures and watch them all.*

*We went to Ms. Yayoi Kusama exhibition, Mucha^{*22} exhibition, Jakuchu Ito^{*23} exhibition, and, Katsushika Hokusai^{*24} exhibition etc., in this year. All of them which we selected and went to are good influences from Heikichi-san’s words for us.*

“Anyway, an ordinary man as Sho-chan should see lots of artworks and have to improve your senses,” which Heikichi-san said to my husband.

Apparently, the husband seems to be traumatized by those words in a good way.

“If Nishikigoi would be existed in the age of Jakuchu, he could be surely drawn delicate but energetic paintings with nervousness up to each piece of scales of it. Please look at feathers, petals of white chrysanthemums; then, you can understand what I am saying.”

We have seen pictures of Jakuchu which are very popular in the world, now, remembering those words from Heikichi-san.



belts.

The owner of the Kimono shop firstly got a textile of Kimono and slid it on the Tatami^{*25}. Then, the silk road immediately appeared there.

While doing them piece by piece, the shop owner said that these are upper pieces of Kyo-Yuzen. Spreading the clothes one after another, it quickly became the sea of silk. Wondering what a beautiful one is, we had seen for a while.

To us, “which one is the highest grade?” suddenly, the owner said such a question to my husband. My husband responded, immediately; and ordered them while pointing to “No. 1, No. 2, No. 3.” Amazingly, it was a great correct answer. No matter how many times they tried, my husband did not take any mistakes until the third.

I asked my husband why you had got those correct answers on the way home. Then, he said, “We, Koi Fish Farm makers are ordering moving Koi all day long. Those materials which are not moving; then, we do not need to use kinetic visions; then, it could be easier for me to



answer such questions, couldn't I?"

"At first, No. 1 highest grade textile jumped on my eyes very quickly. Compared to Koi, it is easier for me to know which is No. 1, because I do not need to worry about whether it would be malformation or not. Secondly, the rest are colors of black, red, and, gloss, then, beauty of the blank spaces ... and various things."

"I do not know the Kimono; thus, I thought I was surprised a little, because my all answers were corrects. Maybe Heikichi-san gave to me a lot of education not only the words but also from his mind."... I thought it is true, exactly. And, I cannot find out other reasons.

After the moment, my husband started to see Kimonos and belts, eagerly on the Internet, from time to time. Sometimes, he sighed and told, "It's too beautiful..." so, I proposed to do a tour of the Kimono shops together. Then, he is happy to go there, together.

I came to visit various Kimono shops; but, I thought that any shops are quiet. I am sorry for that such a beautiful Kimono culture would be lost in the future. Thanks to kindly giving to us the lectures, who do

not buy anything like us. Then, my husband seems wanting to talk a lot of about Kimono.

"The knowledge gained by the Kimono shops is communicable with Nishikigoi; and, the knowledge has been great learning experience," my husband said. I feel like he will tell some stories to young Koi makers as affected by Heikichi-san; and, would become like him.

"So-Shibori"

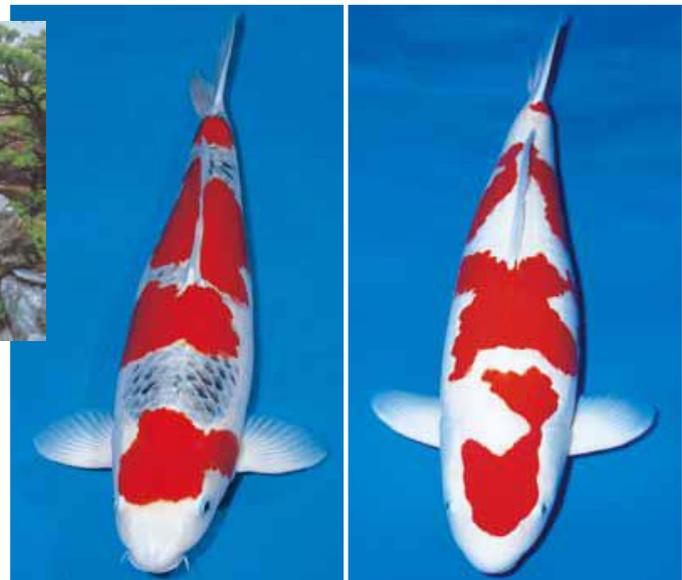
It was about 1989, Heisei 1st in Japan. At hotel Okura in Tokyo, there is an outdoor pool; and, opened an exhibition, named "International Insignificant Koi Exhibition there," which was honor and luxurious Nishikigoi Counsel.

Mr. Mano is sitting on the edge of the poolside; and, said, "Please look at them...The father of you, Sho-chan graded them from me, strongly were able to have the Golden Awards, together," while pointing at the Koi, named Diana and her owner was Mr. Tezuka at that time and Goshiki whom owner was Mr. Murakoshi.

In the past, these two were in the same pond of the garden of Mr. Takashi Sasaki



The garden is great and beautiful Japanese garden, which Mr. Takashi Sasaki created. The two Nihikigoi were swimming in the pond, there. The father-in-law, Yukio said them as Diana is a Western style beautiful lady wearing a red dress, this Goshiki is dirty Japanese style beautiful lady wearing Kimono of the So-Shibori.



in Kobe city. They were friends swimming with each other in the pond.

After Mr. Sasaki became sick, it was taken by separate owners; then, they were able to meet at Hotel Okura for the first time in a while.

“Do you know the circumstances of forcing me to sell it to your father (Yukio Miyoshi) even though I did not want to sell it?”

“That was the time immediately after Mr. Sasaki gave to buy the Diana even she did not have name and called XY. Your father said to me would appreciate if you give to look at the Koi which has colored as “Shibori”. He pointed at the Goshiki which is swimming in our pond. I said, it is only for my hobby and do not want to sell. Then, your father insisted to say that it just only look at. So, I reluctantly but scooped it.”

“Then, your father says it seems the patterns as So-Shibori. I did not familiar with the Kimono; therefore, I asked is it true? Your father said no doubt because the wife of my son wore the Kimono. If the XY is a Western style beautiful lady wearing a red dress, this Goshiki is dirty Japanese style beautiful lady wearing Kimono of the So-Shibori. Please imagine which is



*It is similar to current Goshiki compared to the Goshiki of Mr. Murakoshi. My father-in-law often used business using ancient Japanese “culture of Mitate*26”.*

suitable to Mr. Sasaki’s garden pond.”

“I was in the hands of Miyoshi Magic, when I am aware of it. Mr. Sasaki said that every time I meet him, the Goshiki wearing Kimono of So-Shibori is doing well...Ha ha ha! ... By the way, can I see the Kimono which your father said to me in front of my eyes?”

However, as I had completely forgotten such interactions, it was night that Mr. Mano visited my father-in-law who had no other life expectancy after all.

“This is the Kimono which you said. There were clear areas of deeply black on the Goshiki. So, it might be similar; but, after all it was eventually the sensibility of your father won me, because he was able to assert that the Goshiki is So-Shibori.”

“Your father is a god of business ...that sense is great. Although I studied Koi on my own, business was taken by your father. So, please take care of him till the end,” tearing with his eyes.

Later on, he explained the shadow black areas of the Kato-Showa as Shibori of Kimono. It could be the influence from my father-in-law, Yukio, I think.

Epilogue: Incomplete Aesthetics

Mr. Minoru Mano, a master of Koi in Niigata, said.

“You should not say as silly things, if there could be black spots on this shoulder ... or if there could be red areas here.... I can understand such things because I can catch my eyes; but, I advised it because there is no color then it could be beautiful white charm as white and it could be the point of view in the future. Sho-chan, as the owner of Nishikigoji master, it is the same thing that there is not head if you do

not have good senses.”

The master in Nagasaki, which means Heikichi-san, said.

“While you are in full, it would be rather rusty. It could be nicer than perfect. If one perfect Koi which was; then, it would be bigger and bigger, in the end, it would be seen as very old lady wearing Kimono, Furisode*²⁷ for very young ladies, which means odd. Even the words seem to be different; but, I think the both masters of Koi wanted to tell my husband that “incomplete aesthetics,” I believe. Now, it would be not perfect, but when it grows up, it will live on the contrary. We have consistently been taught that disadvantages are advantages.

In some cases, using Kimono, using potteries, they had guided us with many ways.

I strongly feel that it becomes bloods and meats for us; and, certainly is living in my husband mind. I cannot say thank you to them enough. I think that it is our duty to inherit what we had taught from our predecessors to the next generation.

However, since we are a couple who have neither sensible words nor talents, we decided to show Kimonos and the belt as Obi with these photos, at least for appealing to the vision and feeling of expectation.

In the Heian period, there were meaning in the way of twelve single colors as Juni-hitoe; and, its sense was competitive each other for the high class ladies. Also, the old Japanese names of those colors are very much beautiful. Even red, white, and or black, had a variety of elegant names.

Even in the luxury banded in Edo period, people wore simple clothing with red lining and enjoyed such hidden fashion



*This is Nishiki in the Showa 50s in Japan period. In classical patterns called “Seigaiha*²⁹,” waves of infinitely spreading waves are filled with wishes for the eternal future and peaceful lives of people. Each one of the wavy patterns is a very rare stuffed belt with a chrysanthemum flower.*

Above, we tried to be collaborated the Nishikigoi photo, in which all over 85cm Koi are swimming and the photo of “Seigaiha” belt together, because those seem to be resembled.

at that time. It is called “Iki*²⁸” in the period.

Because such sensitivity of Japanese is handed down with the DNA levels meaning deeply in the minds and culture, people who love Nishikigoi are also greedy for beauties.

Today, with my husband, Shozo’s suggestion, we prepare spectacular Nishiki belts of Obis, so that you can take them at any time.

I believe that it is more than talking about one hundred words to simultaneously see the swimming jewel, “Nishikigoi” and the textile jewel that is the origin of the word “Nishiki no obi” at the same time.

Miyuki Miyoshi

Notes

- *1 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C5%ABnihitoe>
- *2 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sengoku_period
- *3 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noh>
- *4 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kabuki>
- *5 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nishijin-ori>
- *6 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kimono>
- *7 Shouchikubai is 3 types of trees. From traditionally, Japanese believe the 3 types of trees are lucky symbols because they can live very long time and can protect people against earth quakes and or winds.
- *8 Kikko is a hexagonally shaped emblem in the motif of a tortoise shell. Why the traditional people want to use that, the Chinese character Kikko means the Tortoise shell. And Tortoise is believed as the god of sea. So, the traditional people want to use them as the lucky symbol.
Ex:
<https://www.google.co.jp/search?q=%E4%BA%80%E7%94%B2%E7%B4%8B&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjxrqqGjNrXAhUFkJKHfsRDhMQsAQIJJQ&biw=1920&bih=974>
- *9 Mon means kinds like crests.
- *10 Meaning black in Japanese
- *11 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tomesode>
- *12 Kyo Yuzen (Kyo Yuzen) is one of the traditional crafts in Kyoto, a dyeing invented by Fan artist Miyazaki Yuzensa in Genroku era. I painted a silk fabric white cloth and dyed it out, exposed it with the flow in the Kamogawa River; and, those have vivid colors.
- *13 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sh%C5%8Dj%C5%8D>
- *14 Shibori is meaning "Tie" and Zome is "dye;" and, is one of the techniques of dyeing patterns to create a pattern by applying pressure by a method such as binding a part of the cloth so that the dye does not soak.
- *15 "Sanshoku" is three colors in Japan, and "Aka" is Hi or red color in Japanese. In the Taisho Sanshoku, which is the famous blood line category of Nishikigoi, there are specific types. The area of red in the body is large; and, on the red area, there are some black spots. Such specific Taisho Sanshoku called as to "Aka sanshoku."
- *16 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geisha>
- *17 "Suso" in Japanese means hem place of the closing.
- *18 "Moyo" in Japanese means patterns.
- *19 That is why, the textiles are called as to Beni-Zome. Additionally, Beni is kind of fantastic color of red, and Zome is the way of dyeing.
- *20 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yayoi_Kusama
- *21 <http://www.taro-okamoto.or.jp/en/>
- *22 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alphonse_Mucha
- *23 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It%C5%8D_Jakuch%C5%AB
- *24 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hokusai>
- *25 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tatami>
- *26 Meaning "looking" in the field of art is to express subjects to other things.
- *27 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Furisode>
- *28 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iki_\(aesthetics\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iki_(aesthetics))
- *29 Seigaiha is one program of Gagaku. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gagaku> In the program, characters wear the specific patterned Kimono. The specific pattern are kinds like the photo, putting many half circles as waves; then, the patterns themselves become to be called "Seigaiha" itself.