

## Traditional Girls Festival with Gorgeous Dolls

Special Exhibition of the Original Wing Galleries

# The Hina Doll Festival of the Owari Tokugawa Family 2026



Enjoy the elaborate and exquisite doll displays connected with the Owari Tokugawa family, including hina dolls and accessories handed down from the Edo period, and gorgeous grand tiered doll displays made for the wives of three generations of Owari Tokugawa family heads since the Meiji period.



I am  
"Inuhariko"  
papier-mache dog.  
I will give guidance  
to you!

What is  
the Hina Doll Festival?

The origin of *Hina* Doll Festival is an annual seasonal event on the First Serpent Day of the Third Month. In the Third Month of the lunar calendar, the peach trees were blossoming, and the event was also known as the "peach festival." The Festival gradually became established, starting among the courtiers, as an annual festival to celebrate the healthy growth of girls and wish for happy marriages for them in the future by displaying a pair of male and female dolls. Later, in the Edo period (1603–1868), the *Hina* Doll Festival became popular not only in samurai households but it also spread to merchant families.



# Hina Dolls

## Yūsoku-bina of Lady Kane-hime

A princess of daimyo family sometimes had many dolls by herself. Lady Kane-

hime, who was born into a family of feudal lords in Fukushima, had five larger pairs of *obina*/male doll and *mebina*/female doll (each more than 30 cm high), and five smaller pairs of *obina* and *mebina* (about 10 cm high).

*Hina* dolls were displayed in a place called "Oku," where the wives and children of the lord lived, and the women who worked there also enjoyed seeing the dolls every year. The boxes for small dolls of Kane-hime have a tag on it indicating that it is private. These dolls may have been displayed in a familiar place, and Kane-hime herself may have gazed at them leisurely.



TPO was very important for hina dolls!



All of Kane-hime's dolls belong to the category of *yūsoku-bina*. The term *yūsoku* means "manners and customs of the imperial court," and the dolls conform to the many rules for the costumes, and hairstyles to be worn at court. The reason why *Hina* dolls wear various costumes is because the courtiers changed their clothes according to their TPO (time, place and occasion) including formal as well as casual occasions.

### Bits of Knowledge

On the top of tiered stand, male/*obina* and female/*mebina* dolls are displayed in the image of the Emperor and Empress. Below the second tier, dolls of three ladies-in-waiting (*san'nin-kanjo*), bodyguards (*zuijin*), five musicians (*gonin-bayashi*), and scullery maid (*shicho*) are displayed as well as a number of miniature furnishings.

There are various ways to display the *obina* and *mebina* dolls, but in the Edo period, the *obina* dolls were displayed on the right and the *mebina* dolls on the left.



# Furnishings for Hina Dolls

Compare the bride's and the *hina* dolls' trousseaus!



## Two kinds of Furnishings for Lady Sachigimi's *Hina* Dolls

1 of two

### *Kiku-ori*eda Maki-e Furnishings for *Hina* Dolls

*Hina* doll's furnishings are miniatures of the personal effects of princesses they brought at their bridal. For example, tools used by princesses for travel, makeup, and other personal items were also made for *hina* dolls as miniatures.



#### *Kushidai* comb box



#### *Norimono* palanquin



2 of two

### *Daki-botan-mon Chirashi*Maki-e Furnishings for *Hina* Dolls



#### *Daisu and Kaigu*

shelf with tea ceremony utensils and a doll of tea-serving attendant (*Chabōzu*)

How dazzling!



Lady Sachigimi was an adopted daughter of the aristocratic Konoe family, and married into the Owari Tokugawa family at the age of 17. *Hina* dolls' furnishings of Sachigimi are particularly gorgeous, with lots of gold and silver used. Only special daimyo families could use the *nashiji* golden lacquered items.

#### Bits of Knowledge

The most symbolic and cherished of all the bridal implements were a pair of *kai*oke shell containers. These are boxes used to contain shells for *kai*-awase shell matching game. *Kai*-awase is a game in which clamshells are arranged in a circle, each piece separately, to find a pair of shells. As bivalves such as clams would not match any shell other than their counterpart, it was regarded as a symbol of a happy married couple.



# Hina Dolls of Three Generations



Dolls of Ms. Tokugawa Yoneko (1892–1980), wife of the 19th head of the family

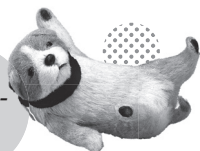
Dolls of Ms. Tokugawa Masako (1913–1998), wife of the 20th head of the family

Dolls of Ms. Tokugawa Michiko (1936–), wife of the 21st head of the family

These are *hina* dolls and doll furnishings of the three generations of the Owari Tokugawa family. The display is a reproduction of the way it was actually done in the house of the Owari Tokugawa family.

In the Edo period, dolls and utensils that were always cherished were displayed together with hina dolls and the furnishings, as shown here.

*Kezukurin-nyō*



Dolls of dogs, rabbits, monkeys or other creatures, made of silk.



*Goshoninyo*  
(Court Dolls)



*Goshoninyo* dolls are depictions of baby boys with white, lustrous skin. During the Edo period, these also became souvenirs of the Kansai region.

A lot of my friends are here!



*Inu-hariko*  
(*Inu-bako*)



From February 7 (Sat.) to April 5 (Sun.)  
Special Exhibition at the Original Wing Gallery  
**Hina Doll Festival of the Owari Tokugawa Family**  
The Tokugawa Art Museum & Hōsa Library, City of Nagoya  
& The Chunichi Shimbun