Tsurushi Kazari

A Traditional Japanese Hanging Decoration Filled with Wishes

Tsurushi kazari is a traditional Japanese craft made to pray for the healthy growth and happiness of children. These colorful hanging decorations are carefully handmade, with each small ornament representing a special wish or symbol of good fortune. They are often displayed during seasonal celebrations, especially around Girls' Day (Hinamatsuri) in March. These colorful and heartfelt decorations are not only beautiful but also filled with love and prayers from family members. They are a charming example of how traditional crafts can carry deep cultural meaning.

There are three major regions in Japan known for their unique styles of tsurushi kazari

- ***Inatori in Shizuoka Prefecture (called "Hina no Tsurushi Kazari")***
- ***Sakata in Yamagata Prefecture ("Kasafuku")***
- ***Yanagawa in Fukuoka Prefecture ("Sagemon")***

Each piece in a tsurushi kazari carries a specific meaning rooted in Japanese culture

- *Dove:* A sacred bird symbolizing peace. Since doves do not choke while eating, they are believed to bring good health and strong growth for babies.
- *Pinwheel:* A rainbow-colored charm used to ward off evil and misfortune, with the hope that everything will go smoothly in life.
- *Crane:* Believed to live for 1,000 years, the crane represents longevity and a prayer for health.
- *Turtle:* A symbol of long life and good health, as turtles are said to live for 10,000 years.
- *Camellia flower (Tsubaki):* A symbol of elegance and beauty, expressing the hope that a girl will grow up graceful and charming.
- *Temari ball:* A round decorative ball representing a rich, joyful, and well-rounded life.
- *Plum blossom (Ume):* A flower that blooms beautifully in the cold, symbolizing strength, grace, and the inner beauty of women.
- *Cushion (Zabuton):* A wish for babies to crawl energetically and learn to sit up quickly.
- *Shrimp:* With its curved back, it resembles an elderly person and symbolizes a wish for longevity.

Each tsurushi kazari is a heartfelt creation filled with hopes, memories, and prayers from family members, and it beautifully reflects Japan's deep cultural values and craftsmanship.