

WOOD WORKSHOP

The interview with **Takahiro Yoshino**

by Kaiki Goma, Yuichi Umemura, Mayu Matsumoto, Airi Suzuki, Yuki Daibo

About Takahiro Yoshino

Entrust life to make a comfortable

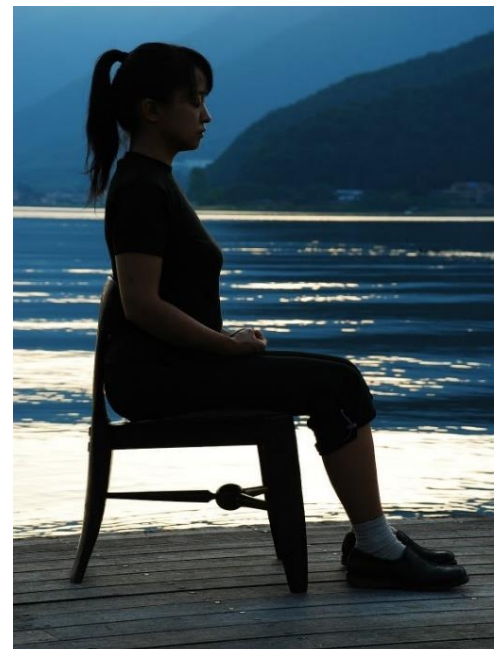


Born in Tokyo in 1958. He works as a wood worker with a workshop by Lake Kawaguchi in Yamanashi Prefecture.

When he was third grade in his college, he decided to do the work he wanted to do without worrying about financial and treatment condition.

He makes a chair as “A tool to snuggle up to us”. Not only making chairs, but also nurturing forests and nature.

Make his dream true and give life to the forest.



Mr. Yoshino's work

He makes a custom chair that fits your body in search of your ideal posture.

The aim is the posture of ***zazen***.



ZEN chair

He considers the characteristics of wood differ depending on the region, so he makes something that suits those while consulting with the individuality of the tree.

All of them are made according to the opinions and requests of customers, and about **10** chairs are made a month.

Why did Mr. Yoshino go overseas?



Surprisingly, he didn't get a very good reputation in Japan until he was about 40 years old. Thus, he decided to go abroad to get

recognition in the world. Because of this big decision, his work is now loved by so many people! He now has affiliated workshops in England, Italy, Finland, Hawaii, etc.

Awards received for work

1984-87.89 Selected for Exhibition of Japanese Traditional Crafts, New Traditional Craft Exhibition, Japan Craft Exhibition.

2001 Second Prize, World Wood Craft Exhibition, Forestry Agency

2013 Awarded Best of Show at Hawaii Wood Show

2016 Zen Round Back Chair was selected for "On the Edge of Your Seat Chairs for 21st Century"

About *LEARNING CHAIRS* “*Isu no Manabiya*”



What is Isu no Manabiya?

It is a hands-on museum currently under construction, where you can see, touch, and learn about chairs.

■ 1st floor: Exhibition room

By installing a total of 6 rows of display shelves, it is possible to display nearly 400 chairs. If you come across a chair, you like here, you can move it to the reading room in the atrium that connects to the second floor, where you can sit, study, and take pictures.

■ 2nd floor: Gallery, cafe, museum shop

At the gallery, we hold special exhibitions and lectures according to the theme so that we can deepen our understanding and enjoy ourselves. At the cafe, you can enjoy a magnificent view of Mt. Fuji and wonderful chairs, and will offer home-roasted fair trade coffee, tea, herbal tea, and seasonal Japanese and Western confectionery.

The interior is characterized by a majestic beam structure that is rarely seen as an old folk house.

About Forest Reclamation

There is a forest near the *Isu no Manabiya* which is under construction. When the forest was bought by the owner right now. The forest was almost untouched by the owner before. So, the first thing Takahiro Yoshino worked on was to cut down some trees. The trees cut down at this work is used for the *Isu no Manabiya*.



Now, why is forest reclamation necessary? It is done to make the forest come back to a **natural condition**. Before they cut down the trees, the forests trees were almost all oak

trees. However, as five years passed since cutting down the trees, many trees such as chestnut trees and Fuji cherry trees have grown naturally.

About Mr. Yoshino's workshop

- **Location**

2585-116 Oishi, Kawaguchiko Town, Yamanashi Prefecture

- **Phone number**

0555-76-7898

- **Business hours**

10:00 - 18:00

※ When you visit his workshop, don't forget to make an appointment!

Message From Takahiro Yoshino

Do not lie to yourself. Make effort with your **101%** power, and for the next generation.

He wishes for us to be honor to ourselves and does not want us to regret our choices. Also, he believes that keep making effort with your 101% power will make up a big difference. Such as the proverb “Many a little makes a mickle”