

An Artist in Fujiyoshida

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Who Is 徐笠 (Joe Hsu)?

He is an artist from Taiwan and is mainly

active in Fujiyoshida. He mainly produces

cloth products such as clothing and towels and

continues to be closely involved with the local community.



Time Series

2017: Studied abroad in Japan. While attending Japanese school, He dedicated himself to his student.

2019: Entered the graduate school of design university in Tokyo.

NOW: Create dyeing works and paintings as a designer. Occasionally, he also works on translating brochures into Chinese for tourists.

KURA HOUSE



This cultural complex is located on Honmachi Street in the center of Fujiyoshida City. It consists of three spaces renovated from a 70-year-old warehouse. The three spaces are: shop, kitchen (restaurant and café), and studio. The shop

is 絹屋商店. This selects shop carries woven goods from Fujiyoshida and Nishikatsura, as well as pottery from Asian countries. Joe Hsu sells some of his works at this shop. The kitchen, 蔵の台所, they conduct research on world cuisine, focusing on Asian and ethnic foods, and hold events such as pop-up restaurants featuring guest chefs. We can eat the food here on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The restaurant menu changes monthly. Joe Hsu's recommended food is Korean's. The studio, 蔵のスタジオ, it is an 80-year-old

three-story warehouse that has been converted into a creative space, hosting performance, exhibitions, and more.

His Works

He primarily uses linen to create clothing, towel, and so on. Linen is a type of fabric used for sheets in hotels and hospitals. The characteristics of linen are as follows.



- High water absorption
- High breathability
- High thermal insulation
- Strong

In addition to his linen works, he also makes coin purses (がま口財布). And then, he makes a wide variety of cushion covers. Furthermore, he also creates pattern designs and produces posters.



Joe Hsu's Perspective

- **How can visitors enjoy?**

He recommended visiting lakes, hot springs, enjoy nature and rent a car or take trains. Sightseeing at Lake the Motosuko.

- **About the overtourism in the Fuji Five Lakes Area**

He thinks it is not a serious problem, but small issues are visible. For examples of bad behavior, taking photos in the middle of roads, ignoring local rules or signs, and so on. He believes that this is a long-term issue and that the lack of awareness among some tourists is a cause for concern. Therefore, he thinks that ongoing education for tourists is important.

- **The importance of climber limits**

He considers that introducing climber limits and fees is a realistic and safe solution. And he believes Mt. Fuji is a sacred and not just a casual hiking spot. So, climbing without proper preparation can lead to serious accidents.



- **Past and future of the Fuji Five Lakes**

During the past 5 years, during the COVID-19 pandemic, there were few tourists. However, now, the Fuji Five Lakes are close to Tokyo, and due to the weak yen, the number of tourists is increasing. And tourist numbers will probably continue to increase in the future. Therefore, he believes that transportation and accommodation facilities need to be improved. In addition, he considers that revitalization of the local economy is necessary because many young people are moving to large cities.

Contact Information

KURA HOUSE

Address

〒403-00044

Shimoyoshida 2-1-25, Fujiyoshida-shi, Yamanashi, Japan

Opening Hours

Shop: Wed – Sun, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Cafe: Fri – Sun, 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Contact

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