

ORANGE NEWS

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WORK&SOUL

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Traveling the Hokuriku Area to Experience Craftsmanship

An enchanting moment spent in a
dreamlike world of captivating peel art



[Cover photo] Location:

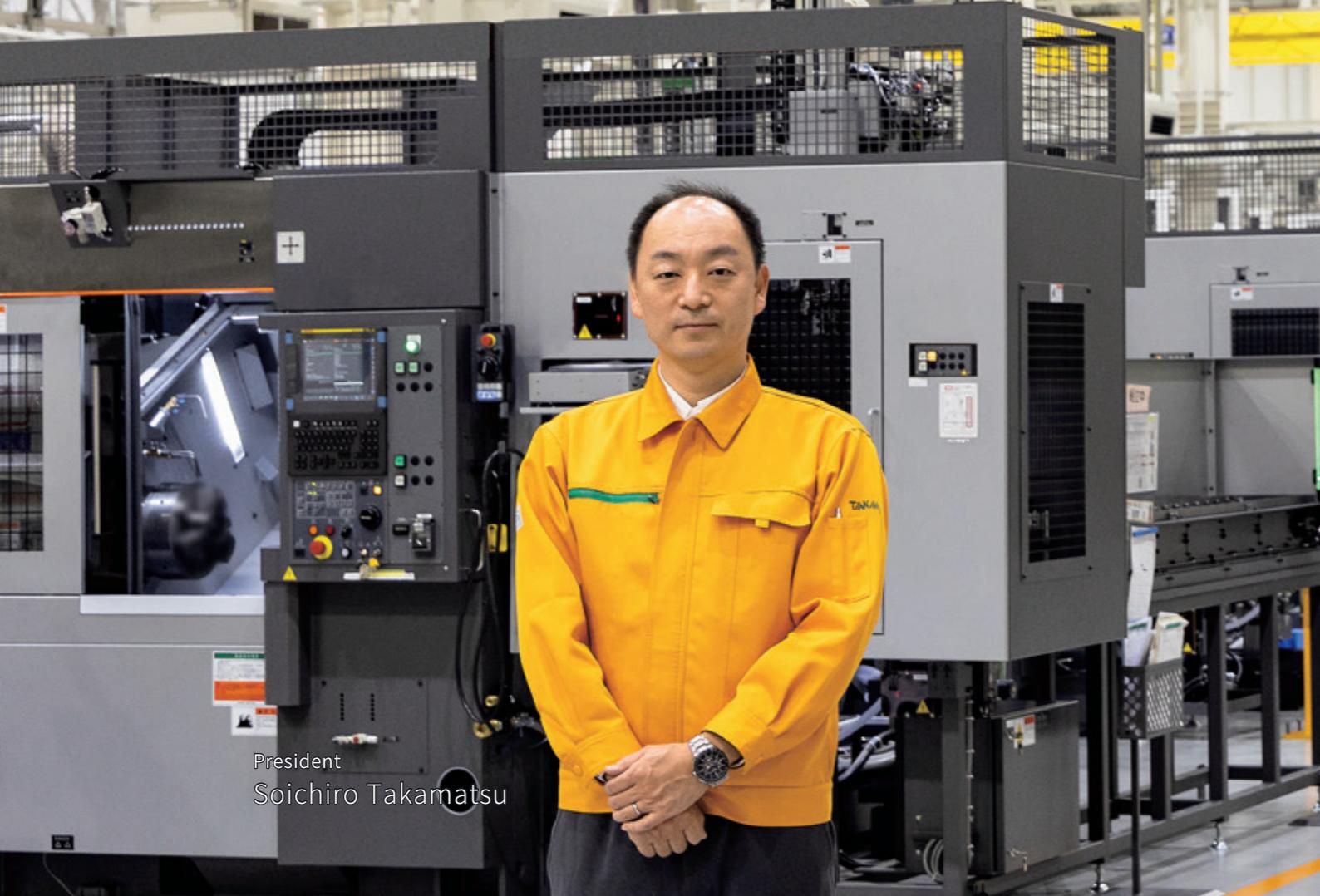
Atelier HIMITO

A small gallery tucked away in a residential neighborhood along Saisei-no-Michi, a riverside path, showcasing dried flowers like dandelions and peel art created from fruit peels.

[Model] Seina Fukui

TAKAMATSU

TAKAMATSU MACHINERY
PR Magazine Winter 2026



President
Soichiro Takamatsu

To start off, what were your impressions on Mechatronics Technology Japan (MECT) 2025, held from October 22 to 25?

At MECT 2025, our booth welcomed a very large number of visitors. By presenting our products with clearer, more focused concepts than in the past, we received highly positive feedback from both customers and trading companies. We also had many substantive business discussions, making the exhibition a truly valuable opportunity for us.

Unlike large international trade shows that attract visitors from around the world, MECT is a regional exhibition held in Nagoya, primarily targeting customers in the Chukyo area. This focus on the local market is exactly what TAKAMAZ needs right now, and I believe demand for regionally focused exhibitions has been steadily increasing year by year.

Do you feel trade shows are increasingly expected to serve as venues for more substantive interactions?

I believe that is the general trend. Rather than serving as a place to envision future possibilities, trade shows are now expected to be venues

for discussions focused on tangible, measurable results. In the past, major international trade shows held every two years provided a chance to see the latest trends in machine tools. In recent years, however, much of that novelty has worn off, and major machine tool manufacturers appear to be increasingly shifting their focus to private shows. On the other hand, regional trade shows like this one attract many customers who come with immediate challenges in mind. For us, these events provide an opportunity to engage with customers on specific topics like labor-saving, efficiency improvements, process integration, and compound machining. I believe our products are well received because they have been developed with a clear focus on addressing our customers' specific challenges.

I see. So we are seeing shifts in market trends across multiple segments. Against this backdrop of a rapidly changing market environment, TAKAMAZ' s Mid-Term Business Plan was announced last April.

In developing this three-year business plan, we took a new approach. We began by analyzing what we do well and where we fall short, as well as our

strengths and weaknesses. Based on that analysis, we developed the plan by addressing gaps while building on our strengths. As a result, the plan goes beyond numerical targets to clearly outline the specific actions we need to take and how we intend to implement them. Through this new approach, we aim to deliver tangible results over the three-year period.

Could you tell us what prompted the change in how the business plan is developed?

Given where we are today, we felt it was necessary to make strategic changes going forward. By listening carefully to external perspectives and broadening our thinking, we were able to develop a new approach. Although only a short time has passed since the plan was announced, we are already seeing a higher level of internal awareness and understanding compared with the previous, numbers-driven goals. While this plan is more demanding than past ones, I am convinced that achieving its goals will lead the company in a positive direction.

You have mentioned the word "change" several times. How important is

Business Philosophy of TAKAMAZ "Mission, Vision Value"



Special New Year Issue TOP INTERVIEW

Advancing Through Change: A New Vision for Our Future

Predicting what lies ahead has become increasingly challenging as the automotive industry faces growing uncertainty—driven in part by the second Trump administration, which is prompting major structural changes across the global automotive sector. Against this backdrop, we spoke with our President about TAKAMAZ's vision for the future.

"change" for TAKAMAZ at this point?

At a time when the world as a whole is on the verge of major change, remaining unchanged is not an option for us. The circumstances we face clearly require us to transform as well. In the short term, we must focus squarely on securing orders and driving sales, and commit fully to those efforts. That means bringing new products and initiatives to the market, which in turn invites new challenges from our customers. Quite simply, this is what we should be prioritizing right now. The most straightforward and reliable way to know what will sell is to listen closely to the market and our customers. Our customers are operating in an extremely challenging environment. Being able to offer solutions that genuinely address their current issues and on-site needs is a necessity to have customers choose our products. We need to work closely with our customers, not just in words but in action, by supporting them through technology and concrete solutions.

Do you feel that the industry itself also needs to change?

Machine tool manufacturers today are differentiating themselves in

various ways. Through the years, expectations for machine tools have come to comprise a multitude of elements in addition to processing, such as labor-saving capabilities, automation, and even environmental performance. But I doubt the rationale of all manufacturers heightening themselves in each and every area of expertise. Given the wide range of needs in the market, I see another possible future—one in which each company clearly defines what it does best, where its strengths lie, and which areas it will focus on. If manufacturers can differentiate themselves while sharing roles—both within the industry and with customers—I believe a very different landscape could emerge. I also think that an industry structure of solely head-to-head competition may no longer be the best fit going forward. Looking back into the past, there were many times when customers produced similar products, and manufacturers competed by offering similar machines. In the future, each manufacturer brings its own specialized expertise and expresses its unique identity, building relationships with customers whose needs align with those strengths. Rather than competing across the board, I believe we should work toward an industry structure

where manufacturers meet increasingly specific customer requirements by using their distinctive technologies to develop a diverse range of machines, while aligning their strengths with the customers best suited to benefit from them. Up until now, competition has largely dominated our industry, but I hope we can move beyond competition alone toward a future where diversity is embraced, mutual strengths are respected, and genuine differentiation is realized.

In this TOP INTERVIEW of 2026, the word "change" came up repeatedly during the conversation. The interview conveyed a firm and uncompromising stance toward the challenges we face, while also providing an opportunity to share a vision of the future the industry itself should aspire to. We invite you to look forward to TAKAMAZ as it continues to evolve positively and effectively.

MISSION STATEMENT

Becoming a global solution company that continues to support our customers' manufacturing through automation and multi-tasking machining technologies!

Interview on Manufacturing

Stories of TAKAMAZ Members



CNC 1 Spindle 1 Turret Precision Lathe

AT-1: A Strong Commitment to the Asian Market

In 2025, the AT-1 was unveiled as a new product at the International Machine Tools and Metalworking Technology Exhibition (METALEX), one of Southeast Asia's largest manufacturing trade shows, held in Bangkok, Thailand from November 19 to 22. To learn more about the features of this new product—developed with a strong focus on the Asian market—and the vision behind its creation, we interviewed the three engineers responsible for its development.

How would you describe the AT-1 and its key features in simple terms?



[Shinmoto] The AT-1 is based on our GSL series of CNC precision lathes for the Southeast Asian market. We streamlined both the specifications and capabilities, with a particular focus on reducing running costs. The GSL series includes the 6-inch GSL-10H and the 8-inch GSL-15PLUS, each with its own distinct chuck size and features. The AT-1 combines the key features

of these two models into a single machine. Since those two models served different machining purposes, distributors had to stock both machines. With the AT-1, that stock can now be reduced by half.

[Sonohara] We conducted thorough marketing to ensure the product meets the needs of the Southeast Asian market. I believe we were able to successfully incorporate aspects like ease of operation and workability.



How do customer needs in Japan compare with those in other parts of Asia?

[Shinmoto] Based on the information that machines at many factories in Southeast Asia are frequently operated by female staff, the GSL-10 and GSL-10H were designed with usability for these operators in mind. Female developers on our team collaborated closely with our female employees to ensure the machines would be easy for women to operate. The GSL-15PLUS

continues this approach. Building on this concept, the AT-1 features an optimally positioned control panel, a spindle positioned for easy access and ergonomic operation, and a simple overall structure, all aimed to make the machine easy to use for female operators in Southeast Asia.

[Sonohara] The close spindle placement not only improves access during setup changes but also contributes to the machine's compact design. Also, the additional shower coolant helps reduce operator workload during machine cleaning. I think these features also contribute to the overall character of the machine.

What other benefits does the machine offer?

[Sonohara] For example, when the workpiece to produce changes at the production site, conventionally, one would have to use separate machines for rough cutting and precision cutting. However, the AT-1 can handle both types of

cutting, which I think is a major advantage.

[Shinmoto]

From an operator's perspective, being able to cover both types of cutting with a single machine offers clear benefits in terms of workflow and skill requirements. In addition, it can also be considered an advantage when it comes to managing and sourcing maintenance parts.

[Sonohara]

For many units, including the bed, we focused on reducing weight while maintaining rigidity, and designed the machine to minimize the number of parts that need to be machined. This approach helped mitigate the impact of rising material costs and also contributed to a shorter production lead time.

In addition, by making slight adjustments to the machine specifications, quality evaluation tests confirmed an 18% reduction in power consumption compared with the previous model, GSL-15PLUS. This directly contributes to lower running costs. We also incorporated feedback and requests from customers and sales staff about the GSL series. By designing the maintenance covers to be removable, we were able to create a significantly larger maintenance space than before. This helps reduce operator workload and work hours for

maintenance, making the machine easier to handle not only for experienced operators but also for those with less experience. While the machine was developed with Southeast Asian female operators in mind as with previous models, our goal was to ensure that it would be easy to operate for a wide range of users.

[Shinmoto]

For future models, we would like to place even greater emphasis on added value beyond machining performance and specifications, such as ease of operation and maintainability.

So far we've talked about the mechanical aspects in detail. What can you tell us about the control system?



[Nagata] For this model, we adopted a large 15-inch touch panel. Compared with the previous 8.4-inch display, visibility and operability have improved significantly. The operation keys are integrated into the touch panel as a software keyboard, allowing users to operate the machine with smartphone-like gestures such as flicks and swipes. In designing the screen layout, we focused on how to improve readability and rebuilt the UI design specifically to suit the

15-inch display. This was one of the most challenging aspects of the control design.

In addition, to further reduce maintenance requirements, this model uses Mitsubishi's batteryless motors.

Previously, batteries were needed to retain the home position of servo motors, but this is no longer necessary. As a result, operators no longer have to worry about the machine "forgetting" the home position after long holidays.

In terms of energy efficiency, the AT-1 is equipped with T-Eco Support, an energy-saving feature that has been introduced in recent models. This includes an idle stop function that helps reduce power consumption during setup changes, as well as a power consumption monitor that visualizes energy usage. Even as a cost-effective machine, we have made no compromises on energy-saving performance.

From operability and ease of maintenance to energy efficiency, the AT-1 incorporates improvements across the board. Throughout the interview, we could strongly sense the designers' passion and commitment behind this new TAKAMAZ product. We hope you follow the AT-1 as it begins to play an active role across Asia.

CNC 1 Spindle 1 Turret Precision Lathe

AT-1



The Concept Behind the Model Name
A: From Asia to All of the world.
T: Turret
1: One & Only

■ Machine Specifications

Item	Unit	AT-1
Max. turning length	mm	300*1
Max. bar diameter	mm	φ42
Chuck size	inch	— (Collet,6,8)*2
Max. spindle speed	min ⁻¹	4,500
Type		8-station turret
Tool shank	mm	□25
Boring holder I.D.	mm	φ32
Max. stroke	mm	X:175 Z:330 with tailstock X:160 Z:330
Rapid traverse rate	m/min	X:24 Z:24
Spindle motor	kW	AC 7.5/5.5
Feed motor	kW	X:1.2 Z:2.2
Coolant motor	kW	AC 0.4
Hydraulic motor	kW	AC 0.75
L×W×H	mm	1,810×1,690×1,500 with tailstock 1,945×1,690×1,500
Machine weight	kg	2,200 (with tailstock 2,400)
Controller		TAKAMAZ & MITSUBISHI

*1 When a TAKAMAZ collet chuck is mounted (TSC-F43-A5, TSC-D43 type)

*2 Chucks are not mounted. Available with parts orders.

Hiroshima Sinter Company Limited

“Press form and then sinter”
This manufacturing process requires highly advanced powder compaction technology and is practiced by only around 20 companies nationwide. Among them, Hiroshima Sinter stands out for its highly distinctive powder compaction expertise.



Think of ways to do it.

Enjoying Manufacturing by Thinking, “How Can We Make It Happen?”

Powder metallurgy is a manufacturing process in which metal products are formed by compacting metal powder and then sintering it. A specialized manufacturer of sintered parts, Hiroshima Sinter Co., Ltd. operates under the slogan “Producing sintered parts that are second to none.” Rather than giving up, the company focuses on how a challenge can be overcome, approaching manufacturing with creativity and a positive mindset.

To begin with, could you tell us about your company’s history since its founding in 1979?

President Kawasaki: After working on prototype engine development at Mazda, I succeeded my father as president of the company in 1997. At the time, we had only about ten employees, and our annual sales were just around 100 million yen. We were facing a variety of challenges, including production and quality issues. It took a great deal of effort, but we managed to resolve them over roughly five years. With an engineering background, I wanted to position our company as one that competes through technology and to make that our appeal to the market. However, given our circumstances at the time, we were not yet able to supply automotive parts in the necessary

volumes. So instead, we turned our focus to engines for industrial machinery, where production volumes were relatively small. Specifically, we began working with companies like Kubota and Yanmar. This was made possible by a truly fortunate opportunity to meet someone involved in engine development at Kubota. Through that connection, we were given various opportunities, and for more than 20 years now, we have continued to work closely with them. Through these experiences, we eventually reached a level where we could handle automotive parts as well. Today, 46 years after our founding, the company has grown to employ more than 70 people.

What do you see as the driving force behind your growth so far, and what would you say are your unique strengths?

President Kawasaki: There are only about 20 sintered parts manufacturers in Japan, so competition in terms of sheer numbers is limited. That said, the industry itself is niche and largely dominated by major players. In that environment, our true strength—and what we must demonstrate—is technological capability. We have to do things that others can’t. One major turning point for our growth came

about 12 years ago through a project with Kubota, when we succeeded in mass-producing helical gears*, which had long been considered difficult to make by powder metallurgy. The truth is that large manufacturers actually have the capability to produce such parts, but dedicated equipment, and thus significant capital investment, is required. By contrast, we were able to manufacture them using general-purpose powder presses. To our knowledge, we are the only company in Japan capable of doing this. Being able to use general-purpose equipment also leads to cost reductions, and we pass those savings directly to our customers. Another significant milestone was our collaboration with Shimano on the development of disc brakes, primarily for mountain bikes. We now produce all of Shimano’s sintered disc brakes, and the technology has been applied to road bikes as well.

These distinctive projects demonstrated our technological strengths and ultimately contributed to our growth. I always tell our employees that even when something looks really tough, either technically or schedule-wise, we shouldn’t say it can’t be done. Instead, we should ask ourselves, “How can we make it happen?”

In addition, we have pursued investments



Manager of Processing Plant
Manufacturing Department
Kotaro Kamisako

President
Shigetaka Kawasaki

【Hiroshima Sinter Company Limited】



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TEL.(082)810-3113 FAX(082)837-3993

Representative: Shigetaka Kawasaki
Stated capital: 37 million yen
Number of employees: 74 (as of April 30, 2025)
Established: Oct. 1, 1979
Nature of business: Manufacturing and sales of iron, copper, and stainless steel sintered machine components



HP

in bringing machining processes in-house and have steadily built up our experience. Today, we take pride in the fact that no other companies of comparable size handle this level of machining while also producing sintered parts, and we are beginning to hear external recognition for it.

* Helical gear: a gear with teeth that are set at an angle to the axis of rotation

Your company has built a strong technological advantage in the sintered parts industry. How do you envision the company’s future?

President Kawasaki: In our industry, companies are in constant flux—some ending business itself, others expanding overseas. Amid these changes, my vision for our company ten years from now is somewhat dream-like. Though ambitious, I’d like us to grow into a 20-billion-yen business. There’s no particular rationale behind that number. But if we set 20 billion yen as the target for the next ten years, it means we would need to double our revenue multiple times. For example, when setting next year’s target, it’s natural to think, “This year we did 1 billion yen, so let’s aim for 1.1 billion next year.” But the action plan to reach 1.1 billion looks entirely different from one targeting 2 billion. I want to

encourage our employees to start thinking in this direction. Even if we fall short of 20 billion, that’s perfectly fine. What truly matters is the effort we put in and the mindset we cultivate.

In this ongoing series, we explore the passions and convictions of those on the front lines of production. Please share the philosophies you hold dear in manufacturing and the approaches you value.

President Kawasaki: My personal philosophy is that manufacturing is never a one-person job. Teamwork is extremely important. It’s like baseball—you can’t win a game even if you have nine strong hitters. During the COVID-19 pandemic, communicating outside the workplace became quite difficult, which really drove home just how vital communication is.

Before we finish, could you tell us what led you to adopt TAKAMAZ machines for your operations?

President Kawasaki: Our relationship with you began when we introduced two TAKAMAZ CNC lathes, TOP-TURN II, to manufacture parts for an engine factory in Thailand. That was about eight years ago. We chose TOP-TURN II because it perfectly matched the production volume of those engine

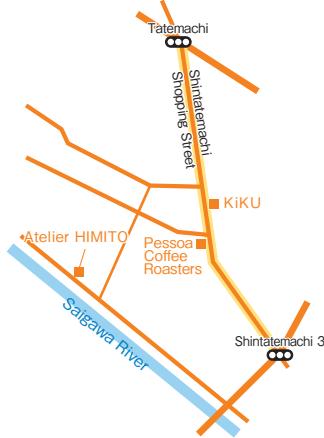
parts and could handle all required processes—cutting, grinding, and brushing—in one machine. That Thai factory now makes about 100,000 engines a year, and almost all of them use our components. Two years after the first purchase, we added another two TOP-TURN II units, and since then, we’ve been using nothing but your CNC lathes. On top of that, our machining factory manager, Mr. Uesako, used to work in your service department! So coordination has gone smoothly and it’s been a huge help. This kind of cross-company collaboration is also a great example of teamwork. Your team has been supporting us in countless ways, and we are thoroughly satisfied with your staff’s professionalism and prompt responsiveness.

President Kawasaki, who also worked on Mazda engines, spoke with remarkable clarity and engagement. Over the course of about an hour, he shared many fascinating stories about the company’s history, vision, and philosophy. We would like to express our sincere appreciation once again.

Traveling the Hokuriku Area to Experience Craftsmanship

— CRAFT CONSCIOUS —

An enchanting moment spent in a dreamlike world of captivating peel art



Nestled along the banks of the Sai River flowing through the heart of Kanazawa, Atelier HIMITO showcases its unique craft art made from fruit and vegetable peels.

This intimate gallery is a hidden gem, drawing quiet attention from those in the know.



KiKU

Housed in a renovated machiya townhouse dating back to the early 20th century, this atelier and shop handcrafts everyday items. With a focus on one-of-a-kind jewelry, the collection also includes cutlery, tea ceremony tools, and other functional objects.



Atelier HIMITO

A gallery exhibiting artworks created from dried flowers like dandelions, as well as fruit and vegetable peels. The gallery also offers workshops where visitors can craft lanterns using orange peels.



Shintatemachi Shopping Street

Located in central Kanazawa, this shopping street is known for its retro yet stylish atmosphere. Strolling through this area, visitors can enjoy discovering distinctive shops filled with carefully curated goods, each reflecting its owner's unique taste.



Pessoa Coffee Roasters

A small, charming coffee stand set in a renovated traditional Japanese house. It serves a diverse selection of coffees, ranging from light to dark roasts, each with its own distinct personality.

In this issue, we introduce Kanazawa's Shintatemachi Shopping Street and the galleries found in and around the area. The moment you step into Shintatemachi Shopping Street, time seems to slow, as if you had slipped back into Japan's Showa era (1926-1989). Located on this street, KiKU offers its custom-made jewelry and handcrafted everyday items. The owner, Yuichi Takemata, is also an accomplished metalwork artist whose work has been featured in national magazines and admired by well-known figures across Japan. With ateliers tucked alongside shops and a street filled with unique items, the area offers encounters that spark fresh inspiration.

Just a short walk from the shopping street toward the gentle flow of the Sai River lies Atelier HIMITO, quietly set within a residential neighborhood. Here, beautiful works of art are created using the peels of fruits and vegetables like oranges and onions. Inside the gallery, visitors are greeted by an extraordinary installation of more than ten thousand dandelion seed heads. Crafted from the protective skins that nurture life in fruits and seeds, peel art pairs beautifully with dandelion fluff evoking life's cycle, transforming the space itself into a harmonious work of art. Run by a pioneer of peel art, the gallery also offers hands-on workshops where visitors can create their own peel art lanterns.

TAKAMAZ

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