

Kogeï Collection Checklist

What to verify before purchasing or acquiring a kogeï work



The value of Japanese kogeï rests not on price alone but on provenance, technique, artistic identity, and condition. Confirming and recording the points below before purchase, acquisition, or installation makes later decisions far cleaner. We suggest using one sheet per work.

DATE	RECORDED BY	REFERENCE NO.
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1 Artwork Details

<input type="checkbox"/> Artist / workshop name <i>sakka · kōbō</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Title / series
<input type="checkbox"/> Year of production <i>incl. estimated date</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Technique <i>name & outline of process</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Materials <i>incl. origin & variety</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Dimensions / weight

2 Provenance & Authenticity *raireki · shinseisei*

<input type="checkbox"/> Box inscription — presence & condition <i>hakogaki</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Artist's original box — present? <i>tomobako</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Exhibition history / inclusion records	<input type="checkbox"/> Purchase source — verifiable?
<input type="checkbox"/> Artist's certification & affiliations — e.g. Living National Treasure (Ningen Kokuhō), if applicable <i>an institutional context, not a price guarantee</i>	

3 Conservation & Logistics

<input type="checkbox"/> Condition — damage / deterioration	<input type="checkbox"/> Restoration history, if any
<input type="checkbox"/> Shipping & packing conditions	<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance — availability & terms
<input type="checkbox"/> Notes for overseas display — humidity, temperature, light exposure	

This sheet is intended to support recordkeeping when purchasing, acquiring, or installing kogeï works. It makes no claims about specific prices, market rates, artist biographies, or award histories. Final decisions should be made after confirming with the vendor, the artist, specialists, and relevant primary sources.

By Technique & Material

What to check, field by field



Conservation, transport, and display considerations vary substantially by technique and material. The notes below are a general starting point for verification. For actual handling, confirm with the vendor, a restoration specialist, and a conservation professional.

KEY POINTS

Before you decide

- ◆ **Hakogaki and tomobako are evidence, not a guarantee.** Confirm whether the box and work are an original pair, whether inscriptions are internally consistent, and corroborate through the vendor or a specialist.
- ◆ **A Living National Treasure designation is institutional recognition, not a price.** Value varies substantially by artist, technique, size, condition, and distribution channel.
- ◆ **Avoid fixing a price; verify against primary sources.** No simple price guide exists for kogeï. Treat direct confirmation with the vendor, artist, or a specialist institution as the baseline.

Lacquer art *shitsugei*

Sensitive to changes in temperature, humidity, and light over time. Avoid sudden drying, excess humidity, and direct light; confirm environmental control and insurance terms for transport and display.

Ceramics *tōgei*

Breakage risk is the central concern. Record packing method, cushioning, and securing during transit, and document the condition of crackle (*kannyū*) and glazed surfaces in advance.

Textiles *senshoku*

Light exposure duration and whether folding is permissible are the key points. Confirm display time, storage posture, and humidity to prevent fading and creasing.

Metalwork *kinkō*

Oxidation and corrosion prevention is central. Check storage humidity, contact with skin oils, and the material of storage supports; consult a specialist where needed.

FOR BUSINESS

For hotel, gallery & corporate installations

- ◆ **Design the explanatory context, not just the selection.** Prepare how artist information, technique description, material notes, provenance, and regional context will be presented — in both English and Japanese.
- ◆ **For spaces with many overseas visitors, build an "explanatory package."** English-language text, romanized proper nouns, and cultural background notes presented alongside the work allow its value to come through accurately.

MEMO · VERIFICATION & CONSULTATION NOTES
