Products

Washi
raw Kozo paper, print paper, paperback paper (pocket edition paper),
drawing paper (Gasen-shi), calligraphy paper, cloud-dragon paper (Unryu-shi)
cultural property repairing washi, red stencil dying paper, raw stencil dying paper,
folk art paper, fine art paper, etc.

Paper-made craft
business card case, wallet,
paper-made cushion, bags, etc.

Folk art
postcard, stationery, envelope, color paper, strip of paper, business card,
Japanese folding book, stamp book, paper card, etc.

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Travel Force
About Kurotani Washi

From ancient times, paper is all around us in our daily life. The techniques of papermaking spread to Japan along with Buddhism and gradually grew into its own shape with peculiar characteristics, bringing the world the unique Japanese Washi (和紙) making hereafter.

Kurotani Washi (黒谷和紙) is one of the few papermaking villages remained in Kyoto. The applied hand-papermaking technique is believed to be inherited from descendants of defeated Heike’s Samurai (平賀の里).

During the Edo period, owing to many government incentive policies, the papermaking industry thrived accordingly. In the meanwhile, being close to then the capital, the geographic proximity made papermaking business heavily connected to many different industries: kimono tags, paper umbrellas, shoji papers, sliding door papers ... and more, bringing in copious orders and resulting in ample handmade papers produce.

Soon after, the industry started to blend in the Tosa (讃州) local papermaking technique, including a great variety of materials like Paper Mulberry (楮, こうじ), Mitsumata shrub (氛草) and Gampi (甘紙, こうじ), to manufacture Ohan papers 大判紙, currency of the timo and think paper, ushering in a new age of paper-making history.

Starting from Meiji period, specifically the time after World War II due to the introduction to the western paper, the demand of Washi decreased. The lack of successor also forced Washi manufacturers around Japan to replace the human hand-papermaking with machines to cope with the challenge. Kurotani Washi exceptionally remained applying the all-hand-made papermaking techniques and carried on the original manufacturing procedure, later became one of the very few hand-papermaking manufacturer existing in Japan.

Kyoto Kurotani Washi, collaborating with papermaking experts and scholars, has been continuously exploring more possibilities of Washi, enriching the collections of Kurotani Washi, such as papers for calligraphy and engraving, stationary papers, postcards, dried paper and delicate paper applications. The efforts started to pay off since 1950s, the name “Kurotani Washi 黒谷和紙” began to be known internationally.

The Tanba (丹波) and Tango (丹後) areas in Kyoto nourishes fine Paper Mulberry trees, with the clean Kurotani River (黒谷川) flowing through the place, making Kurotani area an environment perfect for hand-papermaking.

It is in the exceptional environment, rich natural resources and the belief in the value of hand-made papers, Kurotani Washi walks in its own way, bridging nature and human, abiding by the principles but not drifting with the time, and combining artisans' outstanding skills with vital natural elements, bringing the world, the Kurotani Washi 黒谷和紙.