

## Chigiri – The Art of Japanese Collage

*Chigiri-e* is the art of Japanese collage that is used as decorated pages for Japanese poetry and literature. Various materials, tools and techniques are used to achieve different effects.

### Materials

Paper(*washi*) – Traditional Japanese *washi* paper is used made of a clove-like bush (*gampi*), paper bush (*mitsumata*) or mulberry (*kozo*)

Glue – gelatine-based or rice-based glue is used, there are a number of different kinds for different materials or finishes needed

Mica (*unmo*) – mica is used to create a glitter effect or mixed with glue and used with woodblocks to create printed paper

Gold and silver foil (*kinginhaku*) – cut into small pieces and placed on paper using a sieve

Gold and silver paint (*kingin-dei*) – used for drawing or on woodblocks to create printed paper

Ink (*sumi*) – ink is used for calligraphy (*shodo*) and for marbling (*suminagashi*)

Dyes – Different dyestuffs are used to dye the paper different colour such as oak for brown and sappanwood.

Whitewash made from crushed seashells is used to whiten. Alum is used as a fixative for red dye.

### Tools

Brushes – Brushes of various lengths and widths are used, mostly made of horse and sheep hair

Woodblocks (*mubān*) – Carved woodblocks are used to create printed paper with repeating patterns or individual motifs

### Techniques

Dyed paper (*somegami*) – Paper is dyed different colours, sometimes with layers of dyeing

Printed paper (*karakami*) – Paper is printed using woodblocks and mica

Marbling (*suminagashi*) – Ink is floated on water and is printed onto paper

Patched paper (*tsugigami*) – Paper is deliberately torn, layered and glued onto a page

### Famous Manuscripts that Use this Techniques for Decorations

Various authors, compiled 11th/12th Century CE, *Ogura Hyakunin Isshu (One Hundred Poets, One Poem Each)*

Various authors, 1113 CE, *Nishi-honganji-bon Sanjyū-rokunin-kashū (The Honganji Anthology of Thirty-six Poets)*

Various authors, 8th Century CE, *Man'yōshū (Collection of Ten Thousand Leaves)*

Various authors, 9th Century CE, *Kokin Wakashū (Collection of Japanese Poems of Ancient and Modern Times)*

Murasaki Shikibu, 11th Century CE, *Genji monogatari (The Tale of the Genji)*

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### Resources

The Awagami Factory <https://awagami.com/>