

- 第32代かすりの女王(左から) ●ミセスあいぞめ 諸見里 紗織(もろみざと さおり) ●ミスブーゲンビレア 宮城 奈実(みやぎ なみ) ●ミスあいぞめ 玉城 舞歩(たましろ まいむ)
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ひと糸、ひと織、丹念な手仕事の美 琉球の技と心が、南風に乗って…

## 琉球かすりの歴史

遠くインドに源を発し、東南アジア各地に広がった絣が、琉球王 府の大交易時代の波に乗って、沖縄に入ったのが14~15世紀ご ろ。それ以後、中国・日本や東南アジアの影響を受けながらも、琉 球の気候・風土に合った独自の絣が沖縄各地でつくられ、その絣 が、海を越え、薩摩絣、久留米絣、米沢琉球絣、伊予絣など日本の 絣のルーツとなりました。

琉球王府時代から織物の産地として知られた南風原は、たえま ぬ技術導入・改良と職人たちの努力を、営々と積み重ね、現在では 「琉球かすり」のほとんどが南風原町でつくられています。これから も「琉球かすりの里」として、祖先から受け継いだ伝統と時代に 合った感覚で、永く愛される絣をつくり続けていきます。

## History of Ryukyu Kasuri

Originating in far-away India and spreading throughout Southeast Asia, kasuri (ikat) entered what is now Okinawa from the 14th to the 15th century, when the islands were ruled by the Ryukyu Kingdom and enjoyed a thriving trade. There gradually developed a distinctive style of kasuri production in all parts of Okinawa that, while exhibiting Chinese, Japanese, and Southeast Asian influences, was adapted to the unique Ryukyu climate and culture. This Ryukyu kasuri crossed the seas and formed the roots of Satsuma, Kurume, Yonezawa Ryukyu, Iyo, and other types of Japanese kasuri.

The town of Haebaru has been renowned as a major site of kasuri production since the days of the Ryukyu Kingdom. Thanks to the constant introduction and refinement of technical know-how as well as the unflagging efforts of craftspersons over the generations, almost all Ryukyu kasuri is now produced in Haebaru. As the cradle of Ryukyu kasuri, the town is committed to continued production of kasuri articles that will long be cherished by their owners, by combining the tradition carefully passed on from ancestors with esthetics attuned to the times.



## 琉球かすりの特徴と技法

琉球かすりの大きな特徴は、およそ600種という多彩な図柄。これら爽やかな涼感をさそう幾 何学模様の図柄は、琉球王府時代から伝わる「御絵図帳」をもとに、職人たちが現代の感覚を取 り入れて、オリジナルをつくりあげます。

この図柄をもとに、糸を染め上げる時、少しずつ束ねた糸を計算された間隔で、模様の部分を 1カ所ずつ手括りでしめあげていくという大変手間のかかる方法で、独得の絣模様をつくります。 織りは、緯糸を経糸の間に杼(ひ)を通して織っていく昔ながらの技法で、1日に2mぐらいずつ 丹念に織りあげていきます。

## Characteristics and techniques of Ryukyu Kasuri

The major characteristic of Ryukyu Kasuri is the approximately 600 types of multi-colored patterns. Geometric pattern designs reflecting fresh and cool feelings have been transmitted since the Ryukyu Royal Administration period according to a "Miezu-cho" - a design book, artisans incorporating contemporary senses to create originals fabrics.

With those designs as backbone, before dyeing the whole threads, each design part is hand tied one-by-one at calculated intervals on threads that are little by little tied up in bundles. This method requires a great deal of time, yet allows for the creation of unique Kasuri designs.

The fabric, woven by throwing weft threads in between warp threads, is made by utilizing an old technique, enabling one to at best meticulously weave approximately 2 meters of fabric per day.





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