



Higo-Zogan(Damascene)



Higo-Zogan, a form of Damascene, a metal inlaid manufacturing process, is a traditional Japanese Handcraft with a 400 year history and is exclusive to the Kumamoto region. Originally developed from the collaboration between Gunsmiths and Goldsmith, Higo-Zogan became an art form unto itself. These revered Craftsmen originally developed ornaments for battlefield weapons such as protective handles for swords. For the Higo-Zogan, the Edo-period (1600-1867) marked a golden-age.

As the political climate in Japan changed, so did the products produced by the Higo-Zogan craftsmen. The end of the Edo-period and the introduction of the Meiji Restoration (1868-1912) brought about considerable change for all Japanese. The ninth year of the Meiji Restoration saw the introduction of laws forbidding the ownership of weapons; thus dealing a blow to the Higo-Zogan industry. Instead of halting their manufacturing way-of-life, the Higo-Zogan refocused their energy and skills to produce fine personal ornamentation. This includes tiepins, cuff links, cigarette cases, ear-rings...



1. Inlaying

Inlay gold and silver in a meshed iron base with a deer horn and a hammer for pattering.



2. Engraving

Engrave further detailed pattern on the gold and silver with a graver.



3. Rusting

Rusted by chemicals.



4. Polishing

Polish up silver and gold pattern only.



5. Finishing

Carve it to shade for finishing.



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