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**TÜV Rheinland Group Japan**



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## **Re-birth**

### **The Collective Works of Colleen and Shoichi Sakurai**

Period: Feb 20, 2009 (Fri.) – April 24, 2009 (Fri.)  
Time: Weekdays 9am – 6pm Free Admission  
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays  
Location: TÜV Rheinland Forum  
1F Shin-Yokohama No. 2 Center Bldg.  
Shin-Yokohama 3-19-5, Kohoku Ku, Yokohama  
TEL: 045-470-1850  
FAX: 045-473-5221  
Exhibited arts: ???

An opening party will be held on February 20th (Fri.) at 5:30pm.  
Please join us for pleasant conversation and German wine. Participation is free.



#### **About the gallery**

The 15th TÜV Rheinland Forum is presenting an exhibit of Illuminated Sculptures by Colleen and Shoichi Sakurai. These highly distinctive and imaginative "Illuminated Sculptures" created from a combination of discarded "treasures," traditional handmade paper and artistic intervention.

**With a message that life, and value, doesn't have to be measured in "what was," Colleen and Shoichi Sakurai transform old discarded and**

## **abandoned objects into imaginative components of functional art.**

### **Colleen and Shoichi Sakurai Profile**

<http://www.shoichi-sakurai.com/>

In 1962 Shoichi Sakurai was born the son of a master tategushokunin in the downtown district of Tokyo. Growing up, he found himself unable to relate to the traditional Japanese world and was, instead, drawn to American culture. Adopting the American 50's as his own, he rebelled against Japanese tradition and in his late 20's, after trying his hand at hotel man, musician and club manager, left Japan for the States.

After a few years of life in California, selling vintage memorabilia, he began to develop a growing appreciation and pride for his homeland. Around this time, he met, who was later to become his wife, an American jazz singer who had a fascination with Japanese washi paper. Those two events proved to be the turning point of his life. Together he and Colleen traveled throughout Asia and were deeply inspired by each countries unique cultures and native crafts. After returning to Japan, their interests in the Japanese arts became a passion and they began to create their own work. In 1995 they opened their workshop.

Colleen was born, a few years before Shoichi, an "Air Force brat," and traveled extensively with her family until her father retired in Lancaster, Ca. when she was 13 years old.

Singing always came easy to her and after college she took a professional singer's workshop that gave her the confidence she needed to "take it on the road."

She worked as a jazz singer in the U.S., France, and Israel before making her way East, where she met Shoi. Her first love note to him was written on a piece of washi paper she had made herself.

The Sakurai's express the beauty of recycling in works of art created from discarded materials around a theme of "Re-Create." Their artistic endeavors involve melding innovative ideas with a Japanese aesthetic. They are widely active in the "U.S., Europe and Japan.

[Download Exhibition flyer](#)

### **Inquiry**

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