

KIKKASEKI

Kikkumon Nuri

Urushi Lacquer imitating
Chrisanthemum Pattern Stones



MANVPROPRIA

FOUNTAIN PENS MADE IN SWITZERLAND

Kikkaseki, Kikumon Seki or Chrysanthemum stone

In Japanese culture and Shintoism, the elements of nature such as water, trees and stones are of central importance. The Japanese word for nature is "shizen". It is made up of the characters "ji", which means "self" or "spontaneous", and "zen", which means "natural" or "true". The word "shizen" has its origins in ancient Chinese, where it was written as "zìrán". The idea behind this word is that nature is something that exists on its own, without human intervention, and is true and authentic.

As mentioned above, stones play an extraordinary role in Japanese arts and crafts. One finds so-called "ishi hada" or "ishime-ji" stone skin on all kinds of mundane things of daily use as well as on high-quality works of art. Stone surfaces play a role in lacquerware and metalwork, where the decorative elements are inlaid or built up on a base that imitates various stone surfaces.

We are all familiar with the "Ishime-Ji" urushi lacquers from the Japanese manufacturers of urushi fountain pens, which simulate simple stone surfaces in various designs and colors.

A type of stone that is unknown to us and revered in Japan is the chrysanthemum stone, known in Japan as "Kikkaseki" or "Kikumonseki". (Kikka = chrysanthemum, seki = stones, mon = Pattern). The chrysanthemum is an important symbol in Japan, it represents autumn and is the emblem of the Imperial Family

The best kikkaseki come from "Neodani", a valley in Gifu Prefecture. There they are dug up in mines; stones with three-dimensional, protruding "sabahana" flowers are rare. The so-called "kikkumonseki", which have been ground flat and polished by the forces of nature, can be found in mountain streams. The flowers consist of various calcites, quartzites, which flowed in liquid form into fractures in the stone layers and crystallized over a long period of time.

After much experimentation, I have managed to produce a lacquer that imitates the polished kikkumonseki



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