

■ Achievements

****1997****

- March: Received the Aichi Prefecture Governor's Award.

****1998****

- June: Shinji Okamoto, the third-generation owner, completed his approximately six years of training at Kaho Omiya in Toyota City.

****2002****

- February: Participated in TV Tokyo's "TV Champion Wagashi Championship." Subsequently appeared a total of four times, culminating in a ****runner-up finish**** in the "TV Champion Grand Finale Special."

****2003****

- April: Appointed as a part-time lecturer for the Wagashi Department at Shobun University (formerly Ichinomiya Women's Junior College).
- August 8: Shinji Okamoto, the third-generation owner, incorporated the business as "Yumekashi Kobo Kotoyo Co., Ltd." and assumed the position of Representative Director.

****2004****

- May: Awarded the ****Grand Prize for Confectionery Craftsmanship**** At the National Confectionery Exposition Kumamoto Convention.
- October 19: Main store renovated.

****2007****

- February: Won an award at the "Monthly Cafe Sweets Cake Muffin Contest."

****2008****

- May: Received the ****Grand Prize for Confectionery Craftsmanship**** at the National Confectionery Exposition Himeji Convention.

****2013****

- February: Served as a Wagashi instructor in **France**.
- May: Awarded the ****Grand Prize for Confectionery Craftsmanship**** At the National Confectionery Exposition Hiroshima Convention.

****2014****

- February: Produced 9 types of local mascots ("Yuru-chara") at the request of Mie Prefecture. Sales began at Tōmei-Ōsaka Gozaisho SA.
- August: Shinji Okamoto was certified as a "Sen Wagashi Shokunin" by the National Wagashi Association, recognizing excellent wagashi artisans. (Only 120 individuals are certified nationwide, with 3 in Mie Prefecture).
- October 28: Opened the second store, "Yumekashi Kobo Kotoyo Shiroume no Oka Branch."

****2015****

- February: Shinji Okamoto appointed to the board of directors of the Mie Prefectural Confectionery Industry Cooperative.

****2016****

- May 9-17: Served as a Wagashi instructor in France and Germany as a member of "Aoyukai."
- August: Served as a Wagashi instructor in Dalian, China.

****2017****

- January: Featured in the Mie Prefectural Government's January issue, with Governor Suzuki visiting for an interview.
- February: Appointed as the Mie Prefecture representative for Team Wagashi.
- April 21 - May 14: Appointed as a guide for Her Imperial Highness Princess Akiko, Honorary President of the Ise Sweets Expo 2017. Participated in the operation for 24 days during the exhibition. Awarded the ****Craftsmanship Prize**** for the giant symbol confectionery craft and individual works "Shofuku Rai Mie" and "Yuso." "Kinkan Shizuku" received the ****Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Award****. Received the ****Golden Confectionery Award**** for Zen Yomogi Aji, Yokkaichi Dorayaki Rusk (Black), Yokkaichi Dorayaki Rusk (White), Yokkaichi Dorayaki Oishii Na, Yume Yokkaichi Kokuto Butter Dorayaki Warau to Makeyo Appupu, and Tezume Monaka Yottena.

****2018****

- January 26-28: Demonstrated wagashi making as the main guest for the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Japanese Consulate in Dalian, China.

- April 27-30: Demonstrated and sold wagashi at the "Great Bon Odori Festival" by invitation of the Japanese Association of Cebu Island, [Philippines](#).
- September 9: Runner-up in TV Tokyo's "TV Champion Kiwami Wagashi King Championship."

****2019****

- March 6-8: Demonstrated nerikiri at "Yumaoja" in [Taiwan](#).
- March 8-12: Demonstrated nerikiri at SM Mall in Cebu Island, [Philippines](#).
- May: Acquired National Qualification Wagashi First-Class Artisan.
- June 20: Started distributing online video lessons on "MyRoom," contracting with Micory.
- July: Entered into a personal contract with Ucreator Inc., signing a Chinese video distribution contract.
- June 27 - July 1: Held a wagashi workshop in Paris, [France](#).
- July 8: Shinji Okamoto received the ****Gold Prize**** in the "Bonkei Wagashi" category at the National Confectionery Research Organizations Federation Technical Contest.
- September 5-8: Wagashi workshop at Yumaoja in [Taiwan](#).
- October 2-7: Wagashi demonstration for the "Japanese Community 100th Anniversary Project" in Davao, [Philippines](#).
- October 12: Served as a judge for Seven-Eleven sweets on TBS's "Job Tune."
- December 12: Held a wagashi class for visitors from [Malaysia](#) at the request of the Mie Prefectural Government.

****2020****

- January 16-20: Wagashi class at Yumaoja in **Taiwan**.
- January: Appeared as a monthly guest on Tokai Radio's "Fujimoto Shuji Denshichi-tei Taidan" every other Saturday.
- February 2: Held a wagashi class at Banko no Sato Kaikan at the request of the Yokkaichi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- March 9: Commended as an Excellent Skilled Worker in Yokkaichi.
- April 27-30: Appeared in a TikTok commercial for a golden-time program on Yomiuri TV.
- May 20: Visited the prefectural office and met with the governor to introduce the "Mie no Otakara Market."
- May 30: Served as a judge for FamilyMart sweets on TBS's "Job Tune."
- July 23: Featured "Unagi no Kabayaki" (grilled eel) on CBC Radio's "Tada Shigeo no Asa kara PON!" and "Tsuboi Norio no Kikeba Kiku Hodo."
- August 8: Served as a judge for Ministop sweets on TBS's "Job Tune."
- August 30: Appeared on Hiroshima TV's "Koko! Brand New" in a TikTok special.
- December 2: Featured in the December issue of Masudac News, focusing on Kotoyo.

****2021****

- February 11: Valentine's wagashi featured in the Chunichi Shimbun.
- February 25:** Featured on STV's "Oizumi Yo no 1x8 Ikou yo!" (introducing Hina Sushi, Unagi no Kabayaki, etc.).
- March: Featured in the confectionery magazine "Seika Seipan" March issue: "Kotoyo's Cute Wagashi Special."
- March 12: Becky visited on NHK Premium's "Gussan Nippon Kokudo Truck Tabi."
- April: Appointed as the national head of the National Confectionery Industry Cooperative Youth Division.
- April 15: Sashimi Yokan introduced on "ABEMA Prime."
- April 16: Appeared as the first guest on Mie TV's new program "Yoka Ichi," provided by Yokkaichi City.
- May 7: Mother's Day wagashi featured in the Chunichi Shimbun.
- May 17: Second-generation owner, Fumio Okamoto, passed away at 2:11 PM. Father's Day wagashi featured in the Chunichi Shimbun.
- June 18: Featured in the Chunichi Shimbun (TikTok special).
- June 25: Featured on FM Mie's "Choice" (TikTok special).
- July 16: Unagi no Kabayaki and Ayu no Shioyaki featured in the Chunichi Shimbun (publication date TBD).
- July 20: Appeared on Mie TV's "li ne! MAX," a program sponsored by MaxValu, from 10:00 AM.
- July 22: Appeared on FM Yokkaichi from 5:30 PM.
- July 19: Served as chairperson for the Dorayaki Burger Contest.
- August 20: Served as a judge for the National High School Wagashi Koshien.
- September 13: Entered into a wagashi instruction contract with Saitama Prefecture's Shelley (a confectionery OEM company for

convenience store sweets development).

- November 29: Participated as a panelist at a National Confectionery Industry Cooperative Federation event as a TV Champion participant.
- December 15: Appeared on NHK's "Tameshite Gatten."

****2022****

- February 7-16: Business closed due to COVID-19 infection.
- February 17: BS Fuji's "Quiz! Nō Bell Show" aired, introducing the secret story behind the birth of Sashimi Yokan.
- February 24: Served as a judge for the Omaezaki Sweets Contest.
- March 8: Wagashi class at Shigō Branch Office.
- March 11: Kōdaiji Elementary School Wagashi Class.
- April 16: Wagashi class at Sōsō Network Shin-Matsudo, Chiba Prefecture.
- April 26: Dorayaki lecture for Nanayo Seisakusho staff for new machine development.

****2023****

- January 5-11: Sales at Shin Kong Mitsukoshi in **Taiwan** & lecturer for Wagashi Research Institute workshop.
- January 23: Wagashi instructor for Hokkaido Confectionery Industry Cooperative in Sapporo.
- January 31: Lecturer for Kanto Hassho-kai in Niigata.
- February 21-27: Demonstrated at the Emperor's Birthday reception hosted by the **Australian** Cairns Consulate.
- March 24-28: Lecturer for "Wagashi Research Institute" workshop in **Taiwan**.

- May 5-11: Participated in the "Cebu Island Great Bon Odori Festival" by invitation from the Japanese Association of Cebu Island, [Philippines](#). Provided wagashi instruction to "NONKI," a Japanese restaurant chain with 10 branches in Cebu Island.
- May 12: Mie University course started.
- May 15-18: Provided wagashi instruction to Hanna from [Korea](#).
- May 27-31: Wagashi workshop in [Hong Kong](#).
- June 11-19: Wagashi workshop in [France](#) and [Germany](#).
- July 10-13: Wagashi workshop for Lien from [Taiwan](#).
- August 1: Jibasan Mie Wagashi Class.
- August 3: Yokkaichi Nōgei High School Wagashi Class (Mie Prefecture Food Human Resources Development Program).
- August 5: Kusunoki Waso Reihōkai Wagashi Class.
- August 22-24: Wagashi workshop for Gloria in [Hong Kong](#).
- August 26: Operated the National Wagashi Koshien.
- September 4: Sōka High School Wagashi Class.
- September 7: Yokkaichi Commercial High School Wagashi Class.
- September 12: Wagashi instructor for Shizuoka Prefecture Confectionery Industry Cooperative.
- September 15-18: Instructed confectionery manufacturers in Zhejiang Province, [China](#).
- September 25: Kusunoki Town Wagashi Workshop.
- September 30 - October 4: Wagashi workshop in [Taiwan](#).
- October 9-13: Wagashi workshop in [Hong Kong](#).
- October 23-24: Wagashi workshop for Fukushima Prefecture Confectionery Industry Cooperative.
- October 29: Served as a judge for the Mie Prefectural High School Sweets Contest.

- November 8: Lecturer for Tokai Hassho-kai.
- November 25: Wagashi demonstration for Taiwanese tourists at the Tourism Agency event, Yumato Sakakibara-kan.
- November 29: Wagashi demonstration at the "Wagashi Designated as Intangible Cultural Property" event hosted by the National Wagashi Association and Chunichi Shimbun.
- December 5-6: Wagashi workshop for students from [Korea](#).

****2024****

- January 8-12: Wagashi demonstration at the "Mie-Thai Innovation Center" of the Thai Ministry of Industry in Bangkok, [Thailand](#).
- February 22-28: Nerikiri demonstration and workshop at the JETRO Japan booth at the French Agricultural Festival in Paris, [France](#).
- March 24-29: Wagashi workshop in [Korea](#).
- April 13-14: Wagashi class at Sōsō Network in Chiba Prefecture.
- April 19-23: Wagashi class in [Hong Kong](#).
- April 26-29: Wagashi instruction for "Mr. Yang" from Zhejiang Province, [China](#).
- May 16: Seven-Eleven workshop.
- May 16-23: Wagashi workshop at "Wagashi Kenkyusha" in [Taiwan](#).
- June 2-10: Wagashi workshop in [Germany](#) and [France](#).
- June 11: Wagashi class at Tokyo Seika Gakko.
- June 13: Sōka High School 3rd-year student wagashi class, with students from sister school in Korea also participating.
- June 28 - July 6: Wagashi Kenkyusha workshop in [Taiwan](#).
- July 8: Received ****Semi-Grand Prize**** and ****1st Place in Bonkei Wagashi Category**** at the National Confectionery Research Organizations Federation Contest.

- July 10-11: Student workshop for students from [Korea](#).
- October 2-3: Lecturer for Kagoshima Prefecture Confectionery Industry Cooperative workshop.
- October 5: Wagashi instructor at Nagoya International School.
- October 15-16: Student workshop for students from [Hong Kong](#).
- October 17-25: Exhibited at SIAL Paris in [France](#).
- October 27: Judge for the 13th High School Sweets Contest.
- October 29-30: Lecturer for Fukushima Prefecture Confectionery Industry Cooperative workshop.
- November 18: Sōka High School 2nd-year student wagashi class.
- November 22-26: Wagashi workshop in [Hong Kong](#).
- December 1: Yokkaichi Furusato Nozei Ambassador video started streaming on YouTube.
- December 21-22: On-Time Studio WEB Wagashi Class for Nippon Soken Labor Union.
- December 29: Provided filming location for the Chūkyō TV drama "Maigo no Watashi wa, Akirameru Koto mo Umaku Nai" starring Sakura Fujiwara.

****2025****

- January 16: Ouchiya Dairy 75th Anniversary Project introducing 75 companies in Mie – "Kotoyo" episode with Harapeko Twins began streaming (56,000 views as of March 2025).
- January 15-20: Mie Prefecture Fair, sales & nerikiri demonstration and workshop at Siam Takashimaya in Bangkok, [Thailand](#).
- January 24: Tomariyama Elementary School 2nd-year student wagashi class.
- January 29: Wagashi instructor at Trident Design College.

- January 30: Hisai Norin High School Wagashi Class.
- February 1-2: Wagashi class at Tojo-tei in Matsudo City, Chiba Prefecture & Sōsō Network.
- February 3: Nerikiri demonstration at "Sagami" in Kuwana Apita.
- February 5: Shigō Area Citizens' Center Wagashi Class.
- February 6: Kawashima Area Citizens' Center Wagashi Class.
- February 8-9: On-Time Studio WEB Wagashi Class for Hanamaru Udon Labor Union.
- February 10: Yokkaichi Nōgei High School Wagashi Class.
- February 12: Kanzaki Area Citizens' Center Wagashi Class.
- February 13: Takahanadai Elementary School 6th-year student wagashi class.
- February 14: Hinae Area Citizens' Center Wagashi Class.
- February 20-25: Nerikiri demonstration and Kuranda "Hayabusa" workshop at the Emperor's Birthday Commemoration Ceremony at the Japanese Consulate in Cairns, [Australia](#).
- March 1: Served as a judge for "Anpan" on MBS Mainichi Broadcasting (TBS) "Saturday Plus."
- March 5-10: Wagashi workshop in [Korea](#).
- March 29: Served as a judge for "Castella" on MBS Mainichi Broadcasting (TBS) "Saturday Plus."
- May 27: Served as a judge for "Matcha Sweets" on MBS Mainichi Broadcasting (TBS) "Saturday Plus."
- May 29 - June 15: Exhibited large confectionery craft at the 28th National Confectionery Exposition Hokkaido, Asahikawa Confectionery Expo.

****2025****

- May 14 - July 11: Accepted **French** internship.

Scheduled for 2025

* Workshops, lecturer at schools in **Korea** (Seoul), **Taiwan** (Taichung City), **Hong Kong**, and **France**, and lecturer for wagashi organizations.

As of June 1, 2025

- **France**: 7 times、**Germany**: 3 times、**Thailand**: 2 times
- **Hong Kong**: 4 times、**Taiwan**: 10 times、**China**: 3 times
- **Korea**: 3 times、**Australia**: 2 times