

## **Fiber Futures: Japan's Textile Pioneers Glossary**

**ai.** Indigo, see indigo.

**batik or wax-resist process.** A dyeing method in which the parts of the fabric not intended to be dyed are covered with removable wax.

**chrysalis.** The protective covering which encloses an insect or butterfly in its pre-adult stage and the name for a butterfly in this stage of growth.

**embroider.** To ornament with needlework.

**felt.** A fabric of matted, compressed animal fibers, such as wool or fur, sometimes mixed with vegetable or synthetic fibers.

**fiber.** A natural or synthetic filament, as of cotton or nylon, capable of being spun into yarn.

**furoshiki.** A type of traditional Japanese wrapping cloth used to transport clothes, gifts or other goods.

**ganpi.** A shrub from which bark can easily be stripped off the branches and used as a raw material in the making of *washi*.

**hachisu-ori.** Honeycomb weave, created by gathering and twisting warp and weft threads at regular intervals.

**ikat.** Fabric made using an Indonesian decorative technique in which warp or weft threads, or both, are tie-dyed before weaving.

**indigo.** 1. A tropical plant of the pea family, cultivated as a source of dark blue dye. 2. The dark blue dye obtained from this plant.

**jute.** A long, soft, shiny vegetable fiber that can be spun into coarse, strong threads.

**kaikonshi.** Recycled paper (literally, "paper with its soul brought back to life").

**karesansui.** "Dry landscape," garden style in Zen monasteries, developed during the Muromachi period (1333–1574) and in use until the early Edo period (1603–1868) composed mainly of sand, gravel and stones.

**kasuri.** Type of weaving and dyeing analogous to the Indonesian *ikat*. The fabrics are mainly in cotton and hemp dyed with indigo blue with designs in undyed white.

**kibiso.** A term for the first 10 meters of silk thread that a silkworm spins in its life; it is rough and coarse.

**kōzo.** Paper made from the inner bark of the paper-mulberry tree, *Broussonetia papyrifera*.

**loom.** An apparatus for making thread or yarn into cloth by weaving strands together at right angles.

**masu-ori.** Box weave; see *hachisu-ori*.

**noren.** Traditional fabric dividers used by shops and restaurants in Japan.

**orikata.** A folding technique used in traditional Japanese crafts and fiber art (literally, "folded form").

**origami.** The traditional Japanese art of paper folding.

**shibori.** A term for several methods of traditional Japanese resist-dyeing methods that produce a pattern. Techniques include binding, stitching, folding, twisting and compressing the cloth.

**sisal hemp.** (*Agave sisalana*) A plant valued for the hard fibers found in the leaves. Its characteristics include strength, durability, ability to stretch and an affinity for certain dyestuffs.

**sozai.** Raw material.

**suketa.** A type of small mat woven from thin strips of bamboo or thatch that is used in traditional paper-making.

**tactile.** Of, relating to, or used in the sense of touch.

**textile.** 1. A cloth, especially one manufactured by weaving or knitting; a fabric. 2. Fiber or yarn for weaving or knitting into cloth.

**warp.** In weaving, the set of lengthwise yarns that are held in tension on a frame or loom.

**washi.** Handmade Japanese paper.

**weave.** 1. To make (cloth) by interlacing the threads of the weft and the warp on a loom. 2. To construct by interlacing or interweaving strips or strands of material.

**weft.** A filling thread or yarn in weaving.