

Wild Handicrafts and Wisdom Exhibition

Friday, September 10 to Sunday, November 7, 2021 MUJI GINZA 6F ATELIER MUJI GINZA Gallery1

1 Fishing tool

This is a tool for fishing. Bait is placed in the end of the basket to capture the fish when it goes inside. In Tohoku, Japan, this type of basket-like fishing gear (called "Do-h") is still in use.

2 Arrows for stunting

An arrow is a tool to catch prey, though its sole purpose isn't necessarily to kill animals. Some arrows are used only to stun animals without taking their lives at all. The tips of this type of arrow aren't pointed, but rounded and plump like a dumpling. Stunting is mainly employed for capturing birds. They are caught alive to be kept as pets or to obtain feathers for ornaments.



3 Adjustable backpack

A backpack for carrying fish, potatoes and other food. The width of the backpack is adjustable according to the quantity of the items to be carried. The geometric patterns decorate a part that will be hidden when it is being worn. Together with some asymmetrical details, these show the makers' utter commitment as craftsmen.



4 Comfortable bedding

The hammock is a tool invented by the Amazonian indigenous people in their everyday lives. In the rainy tropics, the ground is damp and the heat often makes it difficult to sleep. The hammock allows air to pass over our back for good ventilation, helping us to stay comfortable in it. It is also a clever way of sleeping whilst being protected from poisonous crawling insects and animals on the ground.

5 Waist sash

This sash belt is woven with Brych palm fibres, and is used for carrying a baby. At the centre is a decoration for babies to play with.



6 How to cast out poison from staple food

Mandioka is a staple food of the people of the Amazon River basin. It is a type of potato from the cassava family, from which tapioca is made. It is a starchy, versatile food that is easy to process and store, but in its natural state it contains a cyanide poison. A tube-shaped woven tool, the "Tipiti" is used to make it edible by squeezing the poison out using its elastic character.

7 Educational toys

Wood-carved animals and clay figures are popular in Japan today as offerings and good luck charms, while some indigenous people in the Amazon also use them as educational tools for their children. Animals living in the Amazon are shown as figures to teach children how to pay attention to their surroundings: "Be careful near this ferocious animal called a crocodile, it looks like this and lives in the river", or "Be cautious walking through the forest because the animal wrapped around the tree is called a snake which can be very dangerous if it bites you". Puppets are used to educate children about how to do household chores such as cooking.

8 For any surface conditions

People living in the Amazon often use earthenware and pots, but the ground isn't always flat enough for them. This tool was made as a platform so that pots and objects could be placed on any surface.



9 Cleaning tools

The indigenous people of the Amazon would, of course, like to keep their surroundings tidy. Dusters made with feathers of the Rhea (a large land bird found in South America), or with the tails of animals such as anteaters or coatis, show how they make an effort to use the materials at their disposal.

10 Materials introduced by people from different cultures

Tins were used as materials to make tools after being brought in to the region by people outside of the Amazon. Maybe the Amazonians found it to be light and strong. They make an effort to use what is available around them to make tools. The "wisdom of coexistence" doesn't mean to live in a stubbornly traditional way, but rather to make the most of the resources that are available, to live as part of the natural environment, and to keep adapting to our surroundings.

11 Continuation of species

In mythology the Apalai and Wayana tribes intermarry, and pass on their integrated culture that transcends ethnic boundaries. This ceremonial disc was placed on the ceiling of its venue and represents the myth of the slaying of a monster (the two-headed anaconda) which is the origin of this ceremony.

12 Feathers fallen out naturally

Among the ornaments of the indigenous Amazonian people, bird feather ornaments are particularly striking. Birds are considered to be special creatures that connect heaven and earth. A bird's life is not taken unnecessarily to make ornaments, but birds are captured alive and their feathers are used when they fall out naturally.