Related Artwork and Collectibles

This section of the wiki is dedicated to art and other collectibles that are not animation art, but are closely related. Examples include: original artwork by animators (shikishi), original artwork used in printed material, original comic/manga art, etc.

- Shikishi - □□
- Nengajo (New Year's Post Cards) - □□□
- Original Manga Pages - □□□□

Shikishi - □□

The Basics

Shikishi boards are made by laminating Gasen rice paper to a hardboard backing. The edges are generally trimmed in gold, the most common size for collecting autographs and artwork measure: 9 5/8" by 10 3/4". Shikishi are traditionally used for sumi, calligraphy, watercolor and haiku. They are also popular for autographs and anime artwork.

Shikishi like most paper products come in different levels of quality and methods of production. When buying art from a source, you are almost never going to know on what type or quality of board the artist did the work on. For preservation purposes I would recommend just always assume the worst (this will be more relevant to the preservation section later). Cutiebunny, (she has an extensive Shikishi collection and is my Shikishi Senpai!) recommends that when you are buying Shikishi specifically to request art from a guest that you use either Sumitomo or the Copic Brand Shikishi, as they are both guaranteed to be acid free, this is questionable when you go to your nearest Daiso and get the 3 pack of Shikishi Boards for a couple bucks :((I still buy these but mostly as boards for guests I'm not as interested in, but I don't want to be rude). If you really want to next level it, bring a small selection of Copic markers for the guests to use on your board, as Permanent Markers that conventions supply, while acid free, do not always have the best tip and have a tendency to bleed if anything should god forbid happen to your board.

Getting Shikishi Art at Conventions

This is getting harder and harder every year. As conventions get more corporate and anime gets more popular there is much less of a chance to interact with guests and get that prized 5 minute sketch from the artist or character designer you are most interested in. Here are some basic guidelines:

1. BE POLITE - To everyone this includes the staff, the guests, and fellow con goers.
2. DON'T ask staff BEFORE OR AFTER the autograph session starts if you can get a sketch. This almost always puts the Kabash on any sketch you might be able to get from the guest (s) you are aiming for.
3. Get in line EARLY, it is best if you are at the head of the line if at all possible.
4. When it is time to get your sketch have your materials ready! Shikishi at the ready with your marker, and if you are asking for a particular character have a REFERENCE ready on your phone!
5. AGAIN I cannot stress this enough, be nice! I usually bounce up to the guest (I get excited) and hold out the shikishi to them to take and ask if they will draw the character I am requesting and show them my phone. ^_^

6. The last step is either excited gushing cause they are drawing for you... or be nice and thank them for your autograph you can ALWAYS try again at a different con it is VERY important you be gracious AND thankful at ALL times do NOT leave a bad taste in the guests mouth!



Shikishi by: Adachi Shingo - Acquired at Animazement 2016 - Kirito (SAO) - *Sword Art Online*

Getting Shikishi Art at Convention Charity Auctions

Start saving NOW, I am not kidding. Charity auction Shikishi are high dollar items, they will go for anywhere between $1,000 to $3,000 each depending on the guest. At Anime Fest Dallas during the height of the Yuri!!! On Ice craze the Shikishi Mitsurou Kubo (the creator) drew of Katsuki Yuri went for over $7,000. You can occasionally get them for cheaper if the guest is not as well known, but definitely plan to bring at least 1K, as this is not a common occurrence.

One of the nice things about the charity auction sketches is that usually a lot of time and care is put into them so they will be more detailed than a convention doodle you get for free in line. Also

in some cases the convention you get your sketches from will give you a tax form so you can write your charitable donation off on your taxes.



Koizuka Masashi - Sketch from *Seraph of the End* - Sakuracon 2017 Charity Auction Sketch (Charity - Make A Wish Foundation)

Buying Shikishi Online

There are multiple sources Shikishi can be purchased from online, some are sketchier than others. So here are just some basics.

> **Mandarake** - One of the more trustworthy sources for online Shikishi, you can sign up for an account with Mandarake as a person based outside of Japan, instead of using a Deputy (which saves you money) Mandarake does it's utmost best to authenticate their stock and they offer a guarantee if the item is ever verified to be fake they will refund your money. Shikishi will show up on their Every Day Auctions on the occasion but the best Shikishi appear during their Big Web Auctions, when they will have high profile pieces from the more well known Anime Creators. And in this case, and basically only this case, getting something from a more high profile creator is basically a safe proposition.



Shikishi from Mandarake's BWA 98 - By Fusanosuke Inariya, from a light novel she illustrated - *Mahoroba Koi Kitan*

Yahoo Japan - is a great resource for purchasing online Shikishi, but here you MUST be more careful and diligent before making your bid! Things to look out for, How well known is the artist? Anything drawn by a SUPER popular artist is almost immediately suspect, i.e. Akira Toriyama, Hayao Miyazaki, Naoko Takeuchi.... etc. There are professional counterfeiters on Yahoo Japan that do this for a living, so do your best to stay away from these super well known artists unless you are 110% sure the item is real. Does the piece have a winning notification from a magazine giveaway? Or any paperwork from the publisher of that particular artist? Be it Anime Studio or Manga Publisher? Does the picture look photo shopped? Is part of the image hidden? Many sellers of legitimate items don't show the whole image so the counterfeiters cannot counterfeit their piece. How much is the item selling for? Does the price make sense based upon the market for that particular artist/property? Always take these questions into consideration when pricing your pieces and deciding what to bid on. Another downside to Yahoo Japan is that MOST sellers don't accept international bidders, so you will have to use a deputy to purchase from Yahoo Japan.

	
Auction won off of YJ 3/15 - Likely real, price typical for high profile Yaoi Mangaka, letter denoting win from publisher, envelope from Ciel's home company Kadokawa Shoten, and image partially covered to stop counterfeiters.	Auction Rotating on YJ - Likely counterfeit, High Profile Anime/Creator, Image Photo shopped, Fu image on display. No winning notification or provenance given, just seller printed certificate authenticity.

Anime-Link - Rick from Anime-Link is a good source for authentic Shikishi Art, he also has an auction around AX time for High Profile Guests. Shikishi from him are real as he knows many of the older high profile artists and often works with conventions to bring in guests. Just make sure you bring your A-game money wise as like Charity Auctions prices are generally high. He will also occasionally post original Shikishi in his shop, just keep an eye out for updates! ^_^

eBay - In general don't do it, unless there is some sort of provenance paperwork associated with the item or the seller can vouch which convention/auction they waited in line for or purchased the item from. If you have questions about an auction's authenticity always feel free to reach out to any of the Cel/Art groups on the links page in this wiki.

Shikishi Preservation

Not a lot of studies have been done on Shikishi preservation. Because of the nature of the product (mostly paper) with some lamination. The best rule of thumb is to treat Shikishi as you would a paper sketch. So some tips on what I personally do with my collection, and if anyone would like to add more tips feel free ^_^;;

1. Keep it out of the sunlight as Paper yellows over time in direct sunlight! I have seen yellowed Shikishi and it is a thing that happens!
2. I store all my Shikishi in Mylar Bags, slit down one side, with 1/2 sheet of Microchamber behind the board to absorb any outgassing, while there are less gasses associated with paper there are still some, that can damage/yellow the Shikishi over time.

3. I also store my Shikishi in breathable bins with lids, NOT in folios, they do sell Shikishi Binders in Japan, but I have yet to find one I liked enough that met my storage criteria. Most are made of paper and are not very sturdy.

I hope this has helped everyone as a basic introduction to Shikishi and the wonderful and times frustrating and expensive world of collecting art from your favorite artists. Good luck everybody!

Nengajo (New Year's Post Cards) - □□□

The Basics

The Japanese have a custom of sending New Year's cards from around the end of December to the 1st of the year. In most cases if you can get your card in the mail by 12/25 JPost guarantees delivery for the 1st of the Year. They are meant as a type of update on your family and an easy way to reach out to those who live far away. In Japan it is expected that everyone send out New Year's Cards as a matter of course, and if you receive one you better hope yours is already in the mail ^_~.

There is one case in which a New Year's Card is not expected, if there is a death in the family. If that is the case usually the affected family will send out a mourning postcard (□□□□ , *mochū hagaki*) to tell friends and family NOT to send New Year's Cards.

Nengajo come many ways, preprinted, blank so you can draw and decorate your own, digital cards sent via phone nowadays are socially acceptable among young people, and you can even purchase software kits to digitally design and print your own cards. Most cards are decorated with the Chinese New Year's Symbol for that year: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig.

Common greetings you will see on New Year's Cards:

- *kotoshi mo yoroshiku o-negai-shimasu* (□□□□□□□□□□□□□ , 'I hope for your favor again in the coming year')
- *(shinnen) akemashite o-medetō-gozaimasu* ((□□)□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ , 'Happiness to you on the dawn [of a New Year]')
- *kinga shinnen* (□□□□ , 'Happy New Year')
- *gashō* (□□ , to celebrate January)
- *shoshun/hatsuharu* (□□ , 'early spring'; in the traditional lunar calendar a year begins in early spring)
- *geishun* (□□ , to welcome spring)

Why?

Why am I talking about this? Well, Mangaka, Animators, and Illustrators will on occasion create an original Nengajo for giveaways, and prizes for anime related Magazines, Manga Magazines, etc. They are not a common item that you can collect and rarely show up a lot even at the usual places. Your best bets are going to be Yahoo Japan or Mandarake to hunt for Nengajo,

authenticating them is a similar process to when you are trying to authenticate a Shikishi. One thing that you should know BEFORE you get into this area of collecting.

1. Nengajo are small usually about 3x5" inches they are not very large.
2. Quality will vary depending on the artist and the event/raffle/giveaway, etc. the card was created for.
3. Keep an eye out for the duplicates or the pre-printed cards that are also given out in a limited quantity, it is sometimes hard to spot them as the copyright information is sometimes left off of the pre-printed cards.


松本ゆい村
2009
A HAPPY
NEW YEAR
志野貴志
2009.01.

Original Nengajo drawn by Mangaka Shino Natsuho, from her title *Kouen-san Ie no Komatta Jijou*

Original Manga Pages - □□□

The Basics

Original Manga Pages are basically impossible to come by, especially those produced by famous artists. In fact CLAMP in general still has most of their original pages from the original run of Card Captor Sakura which they exhibited at the Mori Museum of Modern Art in 2018. This is actually an area where the US Art Market is far superior for original comic book pages from US properties as opposed to Japanese Manga Titles in the Japanese Market. There has been a move to producing manga digitally for the last ten years at bare minimum, but some artists still prefer their pens and paper, and those Mangaka just starting out or just getting big cannot always afford the expensive equipment to produce titles at the aggressive deadlines required by publishers. In fact as of the writing of this article there are a set of original manga pages up for sale on Mandarake that were created in 2018. So while rarer they are still being produced, if mostly only by newer artists.

The pages themselves are drawn on a heavy card stock that is specifically made for publishing Manga, usually first done in pencil, then inked, then screen tone and dialogue are applied last. Most pages will have a ruler in a lighter color down the top and sides so that it is easier to draw boxes and measure out how all the pages will fit together. In the set below you can see the faint blue ruler at the top of the page with the single character, in person the rulers are on all sides, as these scans are cropped. These drawings are almost 20 years old so there is some yellowing in the card stock and the glue/paste used to stick the screen tone to the card stock is not being kind to the paper. Sadly it is the nature of something that is essentially a mixed media art that makes these pages impermanent much like cel art.





みなさまこんにちは、松本です。
この度は『ぼくの運転手』を
毎回アシスタントをしてくださる
そこで原稿を描くに
担当のA澤様、本当
みなさまに対しておれ

Original Manga Pages from: Chapter 6 of, *The Prince's Lesson* by Mangaka: Matsumoto Temari

Where can I find these?

They are basically impossible to find. I have only been tempted with what has shown up in the market once, and the result are the pages by Matsumoto-sensei showcased above. These were acquired off of Mandarake over 5 years ago, they are also occasionally listed on Yahoo Japan, but from the looks of the current open listings most of these came from past Mandarake Auctions. So I would recommend to just keep an eye out on Mandarake for these items if you are interested in collecting them. It will basically come down to timing and luck, Mandarake is the most trustworthy source for original art so you won't have to worry about counterfeits so much.