



“Karakuri Ningyo (Mechanical Puppet or Automaton)”

“Karakuri ningyo” is a traditional Japanese automaton (mechanical puppet) that was first made around the seventeenth century. There are various kinds of karakuri ningyo, ranging from puppets controlled by strings to mechanical ones worked by mainsprings, springs and gears. They are often seen on the festival floats of the Hida region and Aichi Prefecture. The clever device and performance of karakuri ningyo adds a splendor to the festival and provides entertainment to its audience. Karakuri ningyo is an irreplaceable legacy from our ancestors that imparts the sophisticated style and culture established during the Edo period in Japan.

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