

DESIGNER /
MANUFACTURER

TOSHIO TOKUNAGA

PRODUCT NAME

Ganpi Shi Chair

SHOWN IN

70-80 year old Mulberry wood +
hand woven Ganpi Shi paper cord -
created using the process of "Kanna"

DIMENSIONS

12 5/8" w x 12 1/2" d x 35 1/4" h /
18 1/2" sh

ITEM TYPE

Unique Work, Signed



STORY

Working from a studio in the lush hills of Hyogo Prefecture, Toshio Tokunaga combines deep expertise in Kanna, a traditional Japanese woodworking process, with a delicate and evocative personal style to produce chairs of incomparable beauty.

Within the scope of Tokunaga's art, there's perhaps no better example of this than the Crochet Chair and Ganpi Shi Chair, which pair his woodworking with fabric craft of the highest level.

Named for a traditional Japanese paper that can be spun and woven, the Ganpi Shi Chair is essentially a work of textile art framed by a Tokunaga chair. A stunningly complex weave stretches from well below the seat to the top of the narrow, high back, lending the chair a striking verticality.

This specific paper cord is handmade from Ganpi Shi plant and is the king of Japanese paper (washi). The weave is quite difficult to adjust due to the thinness of each cord, and it is a work that requires lots of patience.



KANNA

Kanna is both the name for a type of woodworking and the planing tool at its heart. Avoiding power tools and sanding of any kind, Kanna is a patient and an intuitive process guided by the hand's touch.

Tokunaga sees the tool as akin to a stethoscope that tells him the condition of the wood and how it will respond. His consciousness as a designer lives as much in his fingertips as in his mind. The process, which resembles sculpting, is a sustained act of attention that involves listening to the sound of the planer makes as it passes over the wood. No two wood blocks respond the same. The result is an immaculate finish that higher-tech methods can't equal.

