



Printmaking

Nobuko Koike is an internationally-acclaimed printmaker known for her copperplate prints that utilize a special technique known as single-plate, multi-color printing (the *à la poupée* technique). She was born in Kochi Prefecture in 1937 before migrating with her family to Shibetsu as an infant and living here until junior high school. After succeeding in a variety of ways as a printmaker and returning home to Japan after doing creative activities aboard, she set up a studio in her hometown of Shibetsu and continues to produce art while contributing to the promotion of culture and art in the region.



Sculpture

Kōkō Abe was a sculptor that was active during the Showa period. He was born in Shibetsu in 1906 and moved to Tokyo after graduating from the advanced course at Shibetsu Primary School. After working his way through school, he entered Tokyo School of Fine Arts and began his studies of sculpture in earnest. He broke his right elbow during a sumo match in his third year which prevented him from using his right arm freely. However, he was able to overcome this using his innately fierce spirit and a great deal of hard work. From then on, he continued to make art using mainly his left hand which earned him the nickname *Showa no Hidari Jingoro* (the Hidari Jingoro of Showa) in comparison to the legendary sculptor.