

Spring, 2024

Information Desk Support Staff (Chinese)

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## Window Flowers (Chinese Paper-Cutouts)

The art of paper cutting (pinyin) in China has a history of over 1500 years and is known as a folk art that represents Chinese culture and daily life.

Chinese mainly use paper cutouts to decorate homes by sticking them on windows mostly during the Chinese

lunar New Year. The cutouts are sometimes referred to as “window flowers” or “window paper-cutouts”. Chinese paper-cutting art is loved throughout China and was registered as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2009.

Paper cutouts are generally designed with auspicious motifs from animals, plants, fruits, and human figures. Besides, actors from dramas, historical legends, and actual landscapes can all be depicted as the subjects of paper-cutting art. Paper



cutting is the art with the richness of content and the wide range of themes, and it has been loved by people for over a millennium.

As an example, paper-cutting flowers just look like small flowers blooming in the severe nature of winter. As time passes, the flower cutouts lose their color or get torn, they are replaced to welcome the new year.



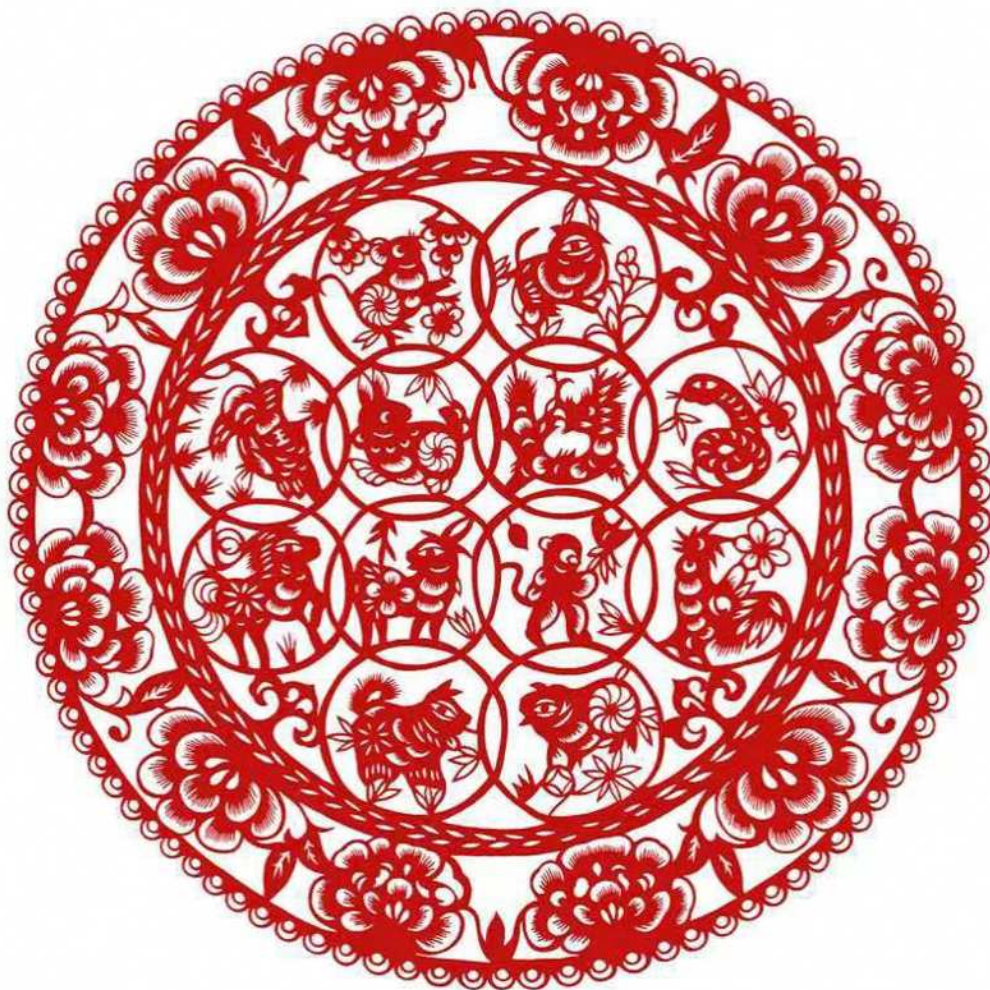
Long time ago throughout China paper-cutting flowers used to decorate windows at every home during the Spring Festival. However, nowadays in the southern part of China, window flowers are only decorated during weddings.



With the theme of happiness people stick paper cutouts of flowers, dragons, and phoenixes on windows for good luck. That's why they usually do not decorate windows with paper cutouts during the Chinese lunar New Year.

On the other hand in the northern regions paper-cutting art is still popular. If people find a home without window flowers during the Spring Festival, some of them might worry about its family.

The use of scissors and knives in paper-cutting art creates a distinct artistic quality depending on the tools used. The art is easy to study, but hard to learn as a folk craft. Craftspeople of paper-cutting art are mainly rural women and folk artists. They focus on themes from what they have seen or heard in their real life, and make them into paper-cutting art with simple feelings and intuition. With simple yet rich expression, concise and bright window flowers are created, reflecting artist's free spirit in the work.



## Information from Nerima City Regional Promotion Section

### <Welcome to Information Desk at Cultural Exchange Square>

We provide all sorts of useful information in some languages for your daily life, including Japanese language classes and so on.

【Venue】 3-1-1、Hikarigaoka, Nerima City

【Telephone number】 03-3975-1252

【Open】 Weekday 10:00a.m.-1:00p.m.

Saturday, Sunday, holidays 1:00-4:00p.m.

※Closed: When Culture Exchange Square is closed, and the end of year and new year holidays.

【Languages】 English : Tue. Thu. Sat. Chinese: Wed. Fri. Sun.

Korean : Mon. ※Please make inquires for other languages.

### <Please visit the Information Desk at Nerima City Office>

Counseling service in English, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog and Japanese is available at Nerima City Regional Promotion Section. Counseling on phone is also available.

【Venue】 Regional Promotion Office, 9<sup>th</sup> floor of Nerima City Main Building  
6-12-1, Toyotamakita, Nerima City

【Telephone Number】 03-5984-4333

【Open】 1:00p.m.-5:00p.m.

【Languages】 English : Mon.~Fri. Chinese : Mon.~Fri.

Korean : Fri. Tagalog : Mon.

※For other languages, please make inquiries.

### We hold events where Japanese and foreigners can interact with each other.

#### For more information

【Nerima City Official HP】

<https://www.city.nerima.tokyo.jp/gaikokunohitomuke/bunka.html>

【QR】



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