



Live Webinar
**Bingata Textiles:
Preserving a Royal Tradition in Okinawa**

Part of the *Living Traditions* series

Tues., Oct. 18, 2022

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm ET (4:00 pm—5:00pm PT)

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SPEAKER PROFILES

Toma Chinen and his studio, Chinen Bingata Institute, are derived from the Chinen family. Dating back to the Ryukyu Dynasty, the Chinen family has a long history of producing *bingata*. The Chinen family is one of the three oldest *bingata* studios in Okinawa. Originally, they were called “Shitagibo-Chinen.” Today, Chinen Bingata Institute is mainly producing kimono and obi. Toma Chinen, the current head of the studio, studied design in Kyoto and overseas. He works vigorously on a dyeing method that requires especially complex techniques and focuses on using *oborogata*, a layered technique, and *ryomengata*, a technique of dyeing both sides of a textile. He took over the studio in 2017 and has started various collaborations with other production areas and industries.



Virginia "Ginny" Soenksen is the director of the Madison Art Collection and Lisanby Museum at James Madison University. She has previously worked at the Fralin Museum of Art, the Ringling Museum, the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture, and the Frist Art Museum. Her work on educational programming and audio-visual exhibition components earned several awards from the Southeastern Museums Conference and the Tennessee Association of Museums. Her publications include several articles in *Textiles Asia*, and *Textiles of Japan: The Thomas Murray Collection* (Prestel, 2019). She earned a BA in Psychology from the University of Mary Washington and an MA in Art History from Tufts University. She is currently a candidate for a Ph.D. in Strategic Leadership Studies at James Madison University.



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SPEAKER PROFILES

Masato Ishida, Associate Professor of Philosophy and the Director of the Center for Okinawan Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, received his academic training in Japan, Canada, and the United States. He joined the Department of Philosophy at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 2009 after completing his PhD in philosophy at the Pennsylvania State University.

Masato Ishida has been serving as Director of the Center for Okinawan Studies at the University of Hawai'i since 2018. He specializes in classical American Philosophy and traditional Japanese philosophy, and is particularly interested in modern intellectual movements in Okinawa. He has published articles on prewar and postwar Okinawa and has given numerous talks on Okinawa-related themes in mainland Japan, Okinawa, and the United States.



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