

4/28/22 Tomoko Torimaru Talk Chat Transcript.

Deb McClintock : Indigofera Suffruticosa seeds available, best for warm climates

https://www.etsy.com/listing/581258066/indigo-seed-for-indigofera-suffruticosa?ga_order=most_relevant&ga_search_type=all&ga_view_type=gallery&ga_search_query=suffruticosa&ref=sr_gallery-1-2&organic_search_click=1

Dr. Tomoko Torimaru's book is available at our Slow Fiber Studios Shop:

One Needle, One Thread, Miao (Hmong) embroidery and fabric piecework from Buizhou, China:

https://shop.slowfiberstudios.com/products/one-needle-one-thread?_pos=1&_sid=251ed3913&_ss=r

More Information on Dr. Torimaru's workshop in July:

<https://slowfiberstudios.com/event/moroccan-finger-weaving/>

Discovered ancient needle almost the same size as a modern needle. Thread that passed through these 5000 year old needles were fine such as silk thread.

100,000 year old stones were hunting tools strapped onto nets, straps, ropes = Origins of rope technology for textiles.

Now to Japan... Needles, ropes, weft woven items found in Torihama shell mound in Japan. Shows that twisting and twining technology existed 5-6k years ago in Japan.

Yet to be published:

"Tumpline" is a strap to hold the basket on the woman's back (photo in center). Torimaru-san traveled to Tokuhoshima to see if she could find the tumpline found in the center photo.

Rush fibers twisted to make the rope. Bound by palm fibers.

Yoshiko: In ancient times, people sought ways to use fibers to make rope. But how to create something flat and wide from these ropes?. ... lead to proto-weaving.

They start with two "threads" acting as weft. Weft weaving goes up from center (pink string) but also down (blue string).

This video shows Dr. Torimaru demonstrating the two different twists for creating rope: Z and S twists.

From Barbara Shapiro : this rope technique video is very similar to what Aimee Lee taught of paper twined basketry in the Korean tradition. I have small video of her doing this in my studio last week.

Dr. Torimaru found among the Miao, a very similar technique used for their own type of tumpline... the proto “woven” and bamboo stick “stitched” strap.

Miao embroidery: They stitch on the backside to protect the frontside from damage and soiling and to manage thread ends better. Back side up and counted stitches.

Dr. Torimaru... mother (Sadae) and daughter (Tomoko) ... do their own photography and illustrate their own diagrams.

Miao people do not have written language. Their embroidery documents their oral stories. Memory cloth with notes on stitches handed down to daughters, granddaughters, etc. Weaving and stitching among the Miao passes family history and stories down generations.

Unfinished embroidery symbolizes connection to the future.. work/ life to be continued by future generations.

Pink Piece in PowerPoint: Piece of silk attached to a clump of soil

We will provide a link to her published papers.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/tsaconf/1114/>

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/tsaconf/1159/>

Yoshiko Wada : To view all upcoming events, including Atsushi-san's and Torimaru-sensei's workshops follow this link: <https://slowfiberstudios.com/upcoming-events/>