

Born in Takamatsu (1898), Kagawa prefecture.

Otomaru Kōdō is the most representative maker of *chōshitsu* lacquer, and a holder of Important Intangible Cultural Property. He began learning *chōshitsu* technique under Ishii Keidō at the age of 13, and in 1932 he was selected for the first time to participate in the Teiten Exhibition with his work, "Small cosmetic box in *chōshitsu* with crab design".

Since this time he has participated every time. In 1942, he was awarded the Special Selection Prize for his work, "Cosmetic box in *chōshitsu*, with moon flower design".

After war in 1949, another work, "Screen of Mizuaoi Water Plant design in *chōshitsu*" also won a Special Selection Prize, and thus Kōdō uses iro-fun (pulverized powder of various pigments), skillfully works with the many colours of lacquer, paints in layers of colored lacquers from the body of the ware. He makes *chōshitsu* in many colors and has developed them into *tsuishitsu*, *tsuikoku*, or *guri* which cannot be classified only by colors used of names of techniques.