

#### Access

**Kitakanto Expressway** 20 Minutes by car from Ota-Yabuzuka IC  
20 Minutes by car from Ota-Kiryu IC  
**Kanetsu Expressway** 40 Minutes by car from Hanazono IC  
\*Please enter the address to search destination when using car navigation system.

**Tobu Isesaki Line** 15-Minute walk from Hosoya Station  
10 Minutes by taxi from Ota Station

**JR Takasaki Line** 40 Minutes by taxi from Kumagaya Station

#### Visitor Information

**Hours** 9:30-17:00(Admission until 16:30)  
**Closed** Monday (Except national holidays, when closed on the following Tuesday), the year-end and New Year holidays (Dec. 29 - Jan. 3)  
**Admission** ¥300 (Group rate ¥240), free for junior high school students or younger

OTA CITY OOSUMI TOSHIHIRA MUSEUM

大隅俊平美術館

3051 Yura-cho, Ota-shi, Gunma [zip code:373-0036]  
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URL <http://www.oosumi-museum.jp>

大隅俊平

OOSUMI TOSHIHIRA  
MUSEUM

美術館

Iron, Fire and Water...

...and Man



Swordsmith Toshihira Osumi was born in 1932 in Ota City, Gunma Prefecture. In 1952, he moved to Sakaki Town, Nagano Prefecture to be apprenticed to master swordsmith Akihiro Miyairi (Living National Treasure and later named Yukihiro) and study sword making. In 1958, he returned to Ota City and became an independent swordsmith. He has since won the Masamune prize, which is the highest prize of all, three times in the "Shinsaku Meito Ten (Modern Master Sword Contest)." He lived a life dedicated to sword making, receiving freedom of the city of Ota in 1988 and being certified as Preserver of Important Intangible Cultural Property (Living National Treasure) in 1997. Osumi was tirelessly devoted to forging suguha-style blades until he passed away in 2009 and was praised as "Osumi of suguha blades." His home has been converted into the Oosumi Toshihira Museum, which opened in November 2012 as a facility to hold regular exhibitions of the swordsmith's works. Come and appreciate the excellent works of swordsmith Osumi, who led a life dedicated to the pursuit of suguha-style blades.

Swordsmith Toshihira Osumi



Photo/Hisao Tsunoda

## The Art and Craft of the Japanese Sword

The Japanese sword sought ultimate beauty, combining ceremonial beauty and practicality. In modern days, it is recognized as a fine steel art and craft that has no parallel in the world, owing to its forging method. In this regard, Toshihira Osumi has left the following words.

A fine sword is sharp;  
if not, it is not a fine sword.  
A sharp sword is not a fine sword;  
a fine sword does not cut.

Toshihira Osumi

名刀は切れぬもの  
切れぬものは名刀にあらず  
名刀は切れぬもの  
切れぬものは名刀にあらず  
名刀は切れぬもの  
切れぬものは名刀にあらず

大隅俊平



Exhibition room





Exterior of atelier



Interior of atelier

## Atelier

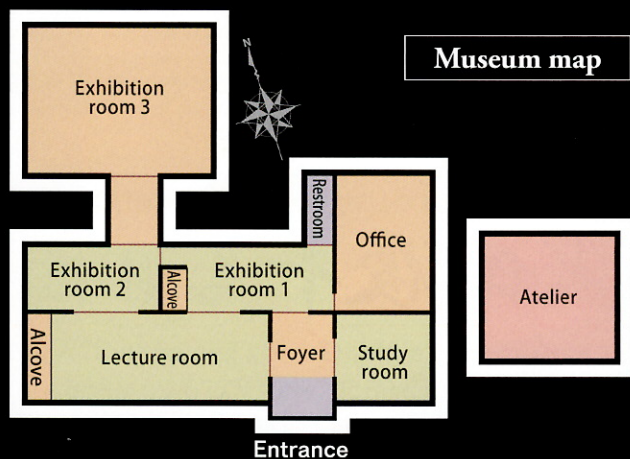
Atelier used by swordsmith Osumi to make swords from 1979 to 2009. It has been left exactly as it was when in use. Demonstrations of sword making are performed by Osumi's apprentices.



Tools for sword making

## Exhibitions

- Exhibition room 1 Biographical background and books on swordsmith Osumi
- Exhibition room 2 Tools for sword making and process of works
- Exhibition room 3 Exhibition of the works of swordsmith Osumi



Lecture by swordsmith



Demonstration of sword making

## Annual events calendar

Various events are held throughout the year at the museum.



Demonstration of fullering



Hinamatsuri (Doll's Day) Decorations



Tanabata decorations

## Main events

February	Hinamatsuri (Doll's Day) Decorations
March	Demonstration of sword making
May	Demonstration of inscription engraving
June	Japanese knotting hanamusubi
July	Tanabata decorations
September	Decorations of the Double Ninth (Chrysanthemum) Festival
November	Japanese knotting hanamusubi
December	Lecture by swordsmith Fuigo (bellows) Festival

Other events and lectures are also held.



Decorations of the Double Ninth (Chrysanthemum) Festival





Full view of the museum



Garden with azaleas in full bloom



Japanese umbrella pine tree cherished by the swordsmith



Former home converted into the museum



View of atelier and Mt. Kanayama