

ArtsPicks

Ong Sor Fern Senior Culture Correspondent recommends



PHOTOS: LOPEZ-LI FILMS, NANYANG ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS, NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD, SINGAPORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**ROOTS OF METALCRAFT:
TSUBAME-SANJO,
NIIGATA, JAPAN**

The metalwork of Japan's craftsmen has attained mythic status, thanks to the pop culture cachet of samurai swords. But the metalware from Tsubame-Sanjo, two cities in Japan's Niigata prefecture, is less lethal. The craftsmen's precision work, now applied to more mundane objects ranging from

tableware to machine parts in the modern age, is celebrated in the annual Tsubame-Sanjo Factory Festival.

This showcase of the festival, curated by Japanese agency method inc, gives visitors a chance to see how the skills of metalworkers have evolved over 400 years. The objects on display are fascinating, ranging from pruning scissors customised for ikebana schools to traditional nails made from

the 17th century, the production techniques for which are now being applied to making camping pegs.

There will be videos demonstrating the production processes, as well as hands-on workshops with Japanese craftsmen (above). While the lectures are free, the workshops are paid sessions. The knife-finishing workshops are full. But slots are still available for the Hammering

Copperware workshop tomorrow and on Sunday (\$35), as well as the spoon and chopstick rest-crafting sessions (\$25) next month.

WHERE: The Ngee Ann Kongsi Galleries 1 & 2, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Campus 1, 80 Bencoolen Street **MRT:** Bencoolen **WHEN:** Till March 22, 11am to 7pm (Tuesdays to Sundays), closed on Mondays **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** str.sg/JGBC