

Clay Figurines

Charms are available at many Shinto shrines. They bring good luck, grant wishes, or ward off misfortune. Sumiyoshi Taisha is no exception. The shrine's popular clay figurines, called *tsuchi ningyō*, depict people and animals, often with a whimsical touch. Many are intended for specific purposes—to bring success in business or to promote a happy marriage. They are available at the main and subsidiary shrines for between 500 and 2,000 yen.

Jūnishi: The 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac.

Yakuyoke zaru: A monkey with a Shinto priest's hat and wand. For warding off misfortune.

Koma inu: A guardian lion-dog that often stands at the entrance of a Shinto shrine. For warding off evil or preventing the departure of loved ones.

Mutsumi inu: A pair of copulating dogs. For safe childbirth or the relief of back pain.

Senbiki zaru: A pyramid of monkeys. For career or social advancement.

Omoto ningyō: A husband and wife. For happy relationships.

Hadaka bina: A naked man and woman. For a happy and honest marriage.

Tanekashi ningyō (available at Tanekashi-sha): A mother and child. For fertility.

Shōfuku neko (available at Nankun-sha): A cat with one raised paw. For success in business: a cat with a raised right paw attracts money; one with a raised left paw attracts customers.

Hattatsu takara-bune (available at Nankun-sha): Two cats in a boat. For growth and good fortune in business.