

## **Kaminohata Pottery Center**

Cobalt-blue and white porcelain decorated with motifs of peaches, *busshukan* (Buddha's hand) citrus, and pomegranate line the shelves of the Kaminohata Pottery Center. These simple yet elegant pieces embody the aesthetics of Ginzan Kaminohata ware, Obanazawa's regional ceramic style.

Kaminohata ware developed in Obanazawa in 1833 but was short-lived. The outdoor kiln used to fire the pottery was difficult to maintain in the region's harsh winters, and it was abandoned after just 10 years. The pottery style was resurrected in 1980, nearly 150 years later, by local potter Ito Hyodo (b. 1952). Kaminohata ware often uses the traditional *santamon* design featuring three motifs: peach, which represents longevity; pomegranate, which represents fertility; and *busshukan* citrus, which represents good fortune.

Tableware, vases, and other ceramic works can be purchased at the Kaminohata Pottery Center. Visitors can also participate in a painting workshop to decorate a piece of Kaminohata ware, as well as a handbuilding pottery workshop.