

Craft × Education: Nurture Creative Minds and Cultivate New Talent

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hatever it is we are talking about, education is always the key." Be it family tradition or apprenticeship, or the courses offered by job training centers and academies, the skills, styles and aesthetics can only be acquired through hands-on practice. The Nantou Craft Research Institute (National Taiwan Craft Research and Development Institute now) established by the government in 1954 was the very first of its kind in Taiwan that provides training programs for local craftspeople. A variety of outlets, such as universities and craft studios also followed suit to cultivate new craftspersons. Along with museums and self-learning trend via internet, a whole new horizon of craft education can be seen right now. We bring the readers back to when Taiwan craft education first started just after WWII, and go through various trends over time, such as government-sponsored training programs, the school system for craft education, craft studios/hands-on experience courses and self-learning via internet while going into details of their resources, styles, roles as well as important players and their influences in each and every stage of time.