

Doug and Mike Starn

“Ani-San, samukaro?
Omae samukaro?”

7 x 5.5 Inches
40 pages with 19 B&W Illustrations
Edition of 15 and 4 Artist's Proofs
Each wrapped in a unique vintage kimono fabric
Each having one photograph from the book on gampi
paper with encaustic, signed and numbered
Housed in a bass wood box

Doug and Mike Starn have excerpted a chapter from Lafcadio Hearn's book 'Glimpses of Unfamiliar' Japan, a collection of tales and traditional ghost stories published in 1894. In the story of “Ani-San, samukaro? Omae samukaro?” [translated “Elder brother probably is cold? “ “Nay, thou probably art cold?”] two children, a brother and sister living in abject poverty, are faced with a harrowing battle of survival and loss in the dead of winter. As their ghosts haunt an inn, the innkeeper must track down the fate of the small children so as to free their spirits.

A hand crafted bass wood Japanese box houses a unique signed photograph; inkjet on gampi paper, hand coated with encaustic, under which the book is found wrapped in an indigo vintage kimono fabric. The package is tied with red and white cords, each one with a small paper flag inscribed with a question from the title. The story reveals the significance of the book wrapped in a threadbare kimono under the snow.

Each book is hand-made, thread bound using traditional Japanese techniques, with 19 photo-micrographs of snow crystals that were shot by the artists during snowstorms between 2004 and 2006. The images are printed on gampi paper, the back of each image is hand-painted with white acrylic and then finally the image is brushed with a single stroke of varnish. A signed colophon is inside the box.

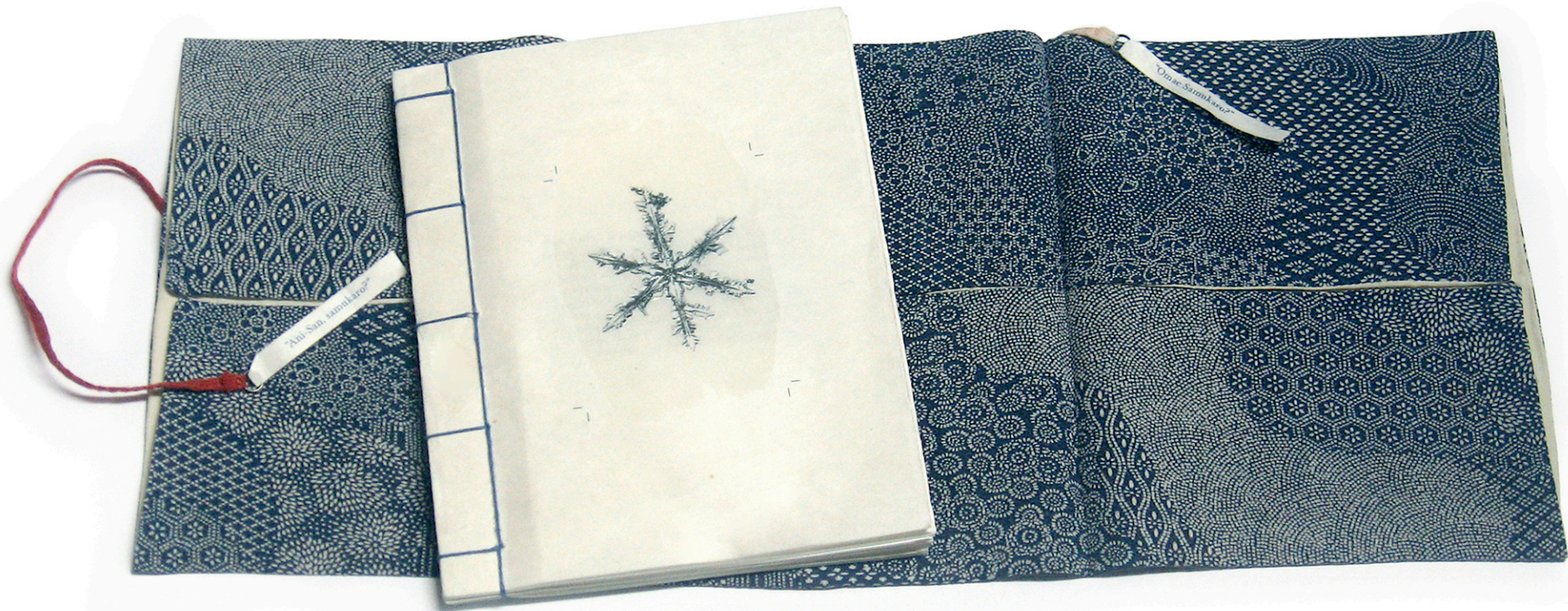
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They had but one thin blue kimono each, for all their other clothes had been sold to buy food; and they had nowhere to go. There was a temple of Kwannon not far away, but the snow was too high for them to reach it. So when the landlord was gone, they crept back behind the house.

