



1928



2018

THE HISTORY OF NAKANISHI®

A Family Built On Tradition And Legacy

Since 1928, NAKANISHI® has enrooted its name in the eyewear industry as one of the most thriving multi-generational family businesses in Japan's handmade optical industry. Focusing its core business in the artistry of handmade eyeglasses since 1920s, NAKANISHI® has been one of the pioneers in eyewear business in Fukuoka, Japan. The Nakanishi family has also grown its heritage and legacy as a highly respected family in the eyewear industry across the country.

First generation, Nakanishi Takeo began learning his craft at the age of 12 from a master craftsman in Kyoto, where he was originally from. After more than a decade of perfecting his skills and artistry, he moved to Fukuoka, started a family and began making eyeglasses to support his family of six children. Working from a makeshift garage in his home, he honed and crafted some of the most iconic eyeglass pieces made using pure gold, artificial gold (Goukin) and the king of metal known as Yohaku.

Takeo then founded the first NAKANISHI® shop in Hakata, Nakashima town in Fukuoka selling handmade eyepieces that he himself handcrafted.

In those days, learning the arts of eyeframe making was a very complicated task that required a great deal of attention, perseverance, patience and dedication. The level of precision that that went into the processes in the golden days were beyond compare. Takeo was one of the earliest craftsmen in Japan and the only handmade eyewear craftsman in Fukuoka city.



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Second generation, Nakanishi Takao decided to continue his family heritage as a young lad in his 20s. He took over 15 years to master his craft and skills under the watchful eyes of Takeo, teacher by day and father by night. Takao was a great apprentice. And like his father, he learned the artisanal craft of making eyeglasses using metal and gold, which was a very popular trade back in those days.

In the 1950s, the NAKANISHI® shop began operating in Nishitetsu Market, the heart of Fukuoka city, which is now known as Ten-Jin Core. It was in this shop that third generation, Nakanishi Takayoshi was born. Takayoshi grew up around the business and even as a young child, he understood the responsibility to take over the family business.

Unlike his patriarchs, Takayoshi took a different route. The day after his graduation from high school, on 1st April 1968, he left to Tokyo to study eyewear. He worked in one of the biggest optical company in Tokyo for 15 years, acquiring one of the most important skills that gave the family business a new perspective and commerciality. Throughout his employment with the eyewear company, he was heavily involved in the production and operations of the optical business. His expertise allowed the brand NAKANISHI® to leapfrog to a whole new level when he returned to Fukuoka in 1983 to take over the family's dominion.

As the brand approaches its 90th year, fourth generation, Nakanishi Masayoshi now aims to take over the business with a whole new sensibility. Harnessing the values of handmade artisanal craftsmanship from his forefathers and the operational expertise from his father, Masayoshi combines his artistry in handmade celluloid eyewear frames and a contemporary creative direction into the namesake brand.

NAKANISHI® sets its eyes on establishing a stronger foundation in the global market as the brand expands outside of Japan for the first time. In 2017, NAKANISHI® launches its latest set of eyeglasses that epitomizes its roots and heritage. Each piece carries a deep meaning to the family's heritage and legacy; paving a new way for the brand to reestablish itself in the optical world.



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Discover the revival of heritage and legacy through supreme handmade artistry and an honest sensibility that transcend generations with NAKANISHI® Heritage Collection, featuring five new models that pay homage to the prominent people behind the brand. Introducing TAKEO, HAKATA, TAKABO, TENJIN and MASA.

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