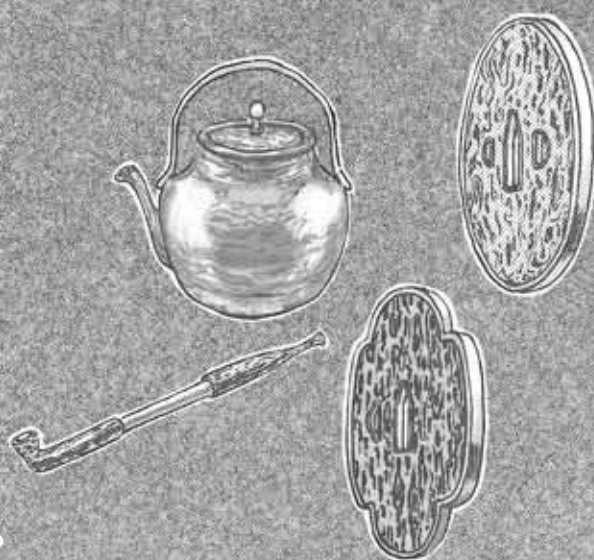
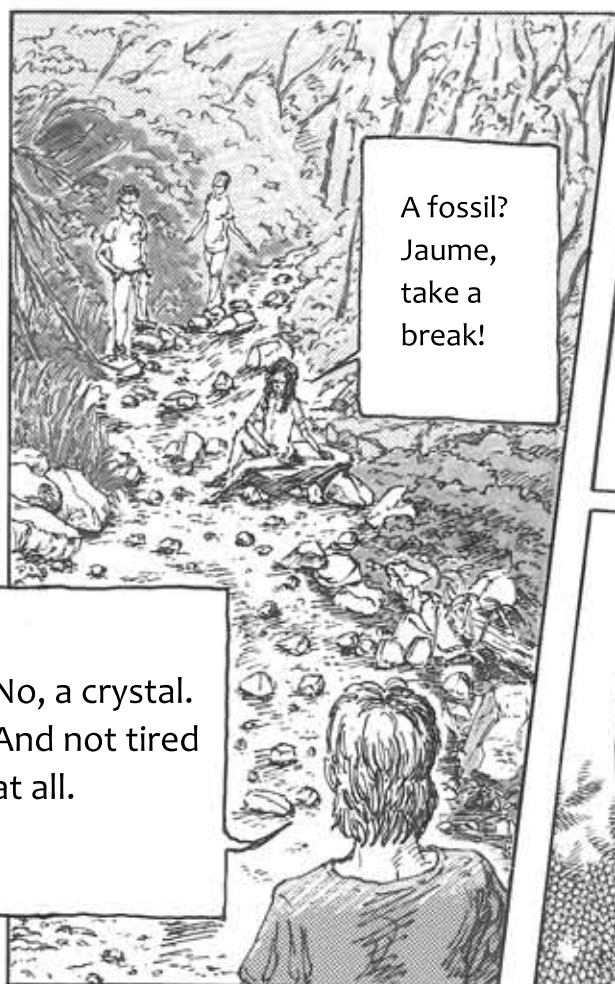


Unfortunately,
with westernization
and industrialization
after Meiji Period,
artisans decrease
as well as needs due to
the sword prohibiting law.
The Mokume gane technique
becomes extinct.



Mokume gane becomes
a luxury piece for
sword guards
and becomes popular even
for daily items.



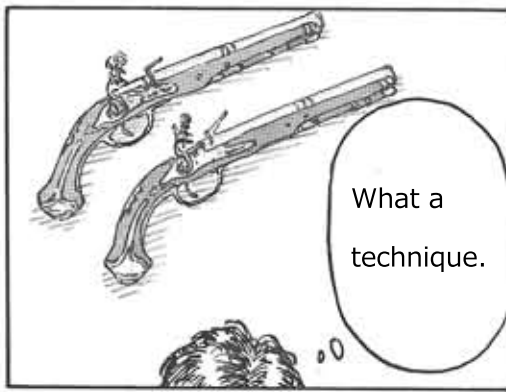
A fossil?
Jaume,
take a
break!

No, a crystal.
And not tired
at all.



Found
one
again!





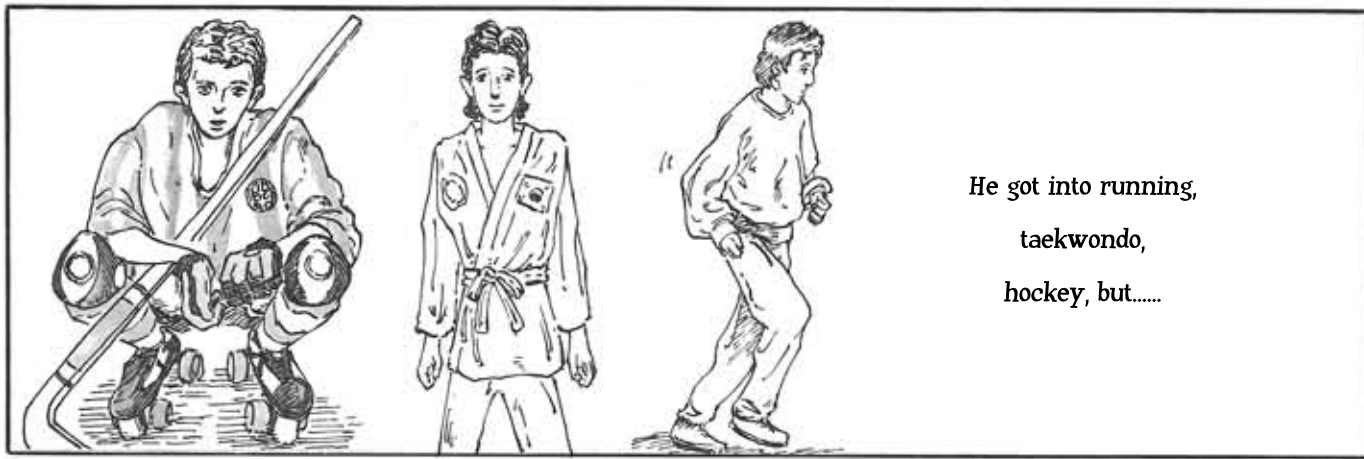
Jewelry Artist, Jaume Labro.

At a young age he helped his father in the antique business on weekends and grew up surrounded by art and crafts.



Sometimes he enjoyed searching for fossils and crystals with his family in the Catalan mountains.





He got into running,
taekwondo,
hockey, but.....

Rock climbing was
something he was passionate about.

He started at 12,
renovated the garage
placing bed mattresses
and trained hard.

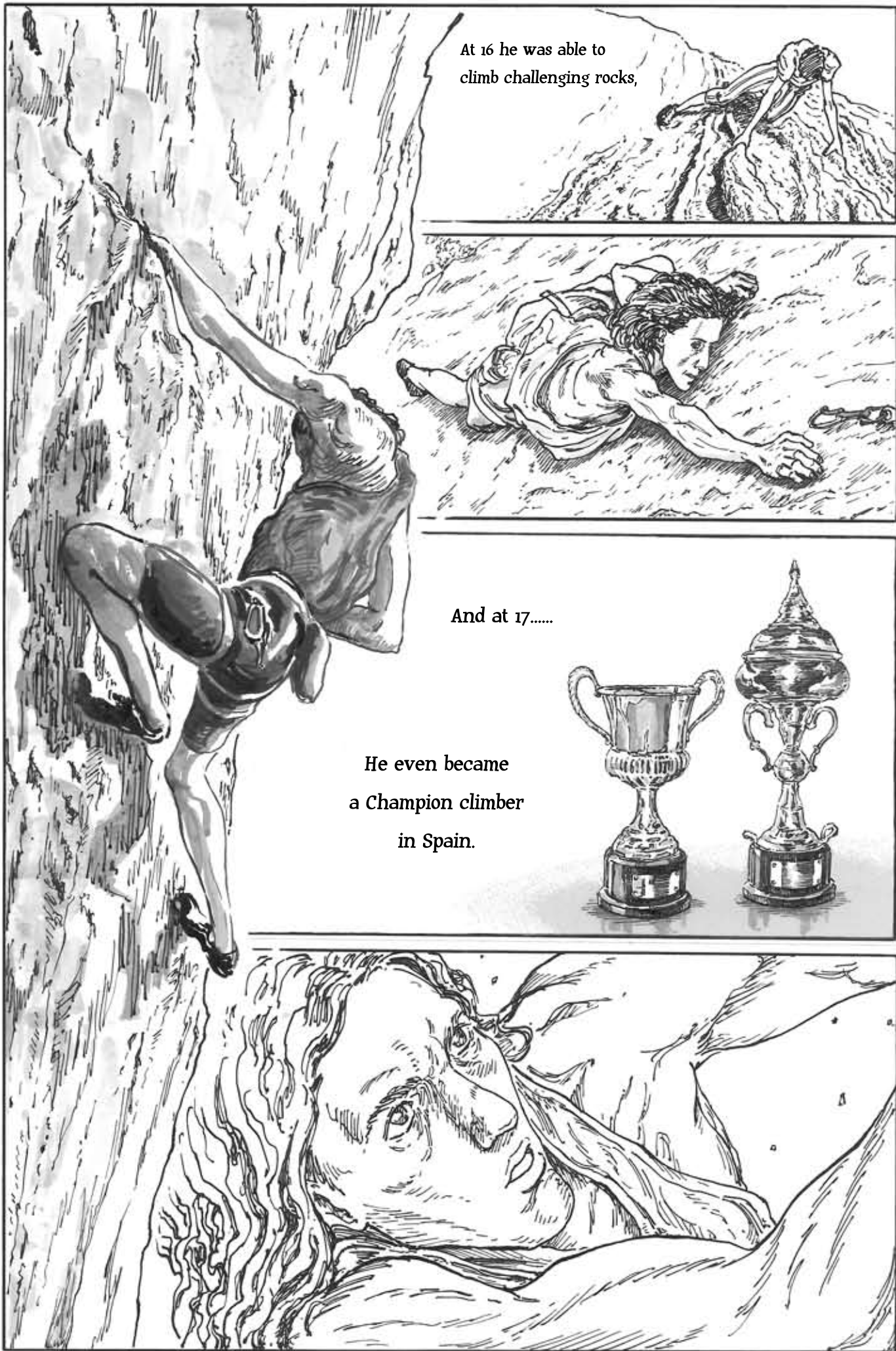


Weekdays in the garage,



Weekends in the
mountains.



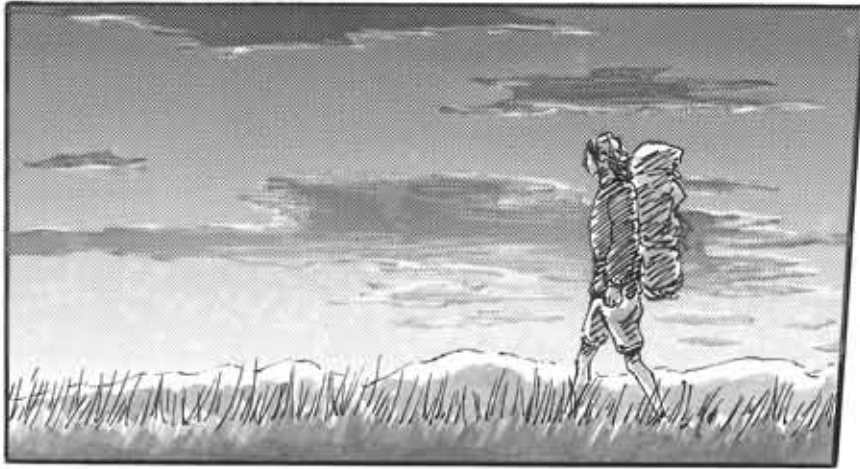


At 16 he was able to
climb challenging rocks,

And at 17.....

He even became
a Champion climber
in Spain.

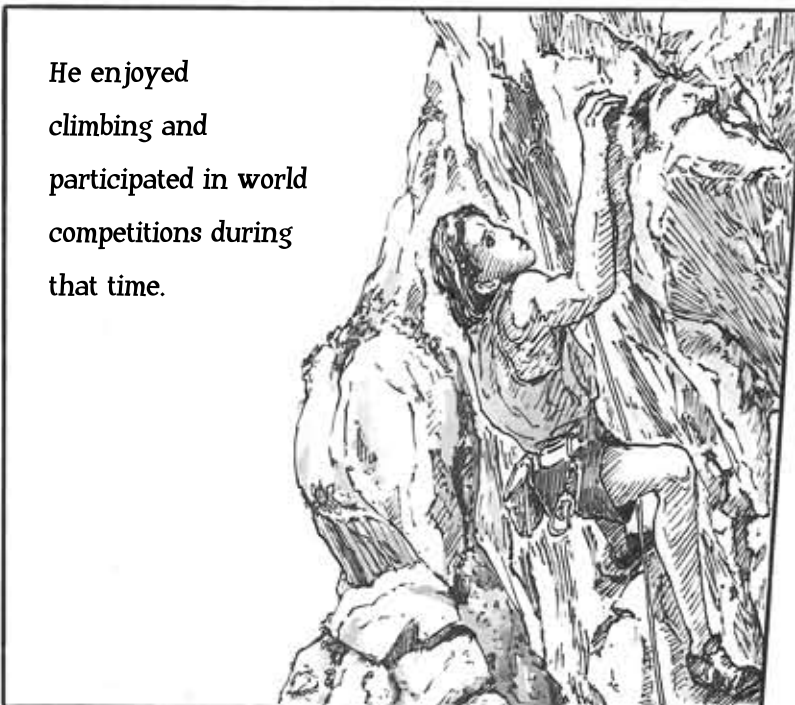




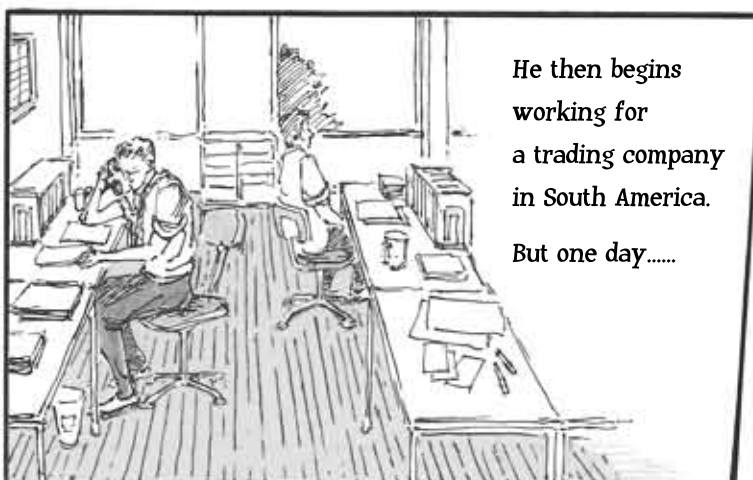
He explores
around the world.



Europe, USA,
Africa . . .



He enjoyed
climbing and
participated in world
competitions during
that time.



He then begins
working for
a trading company
in South America.
But one day.....



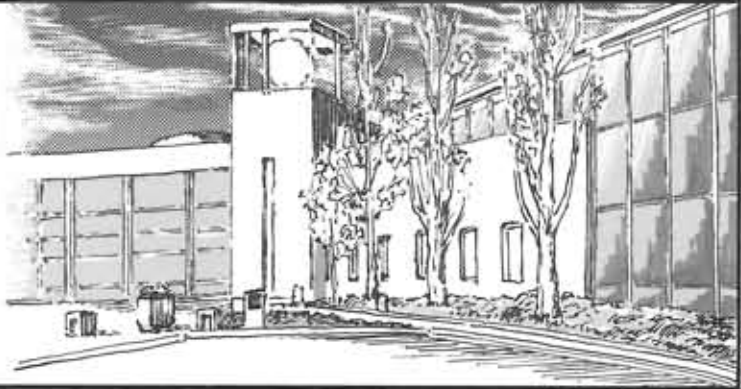


A casual conversation
turned into a talk
about jewelry.



He's quick at taking action.

To learn jewelry making,
something that always interested him,
he enters the famous specialized school for gems,
GIA.



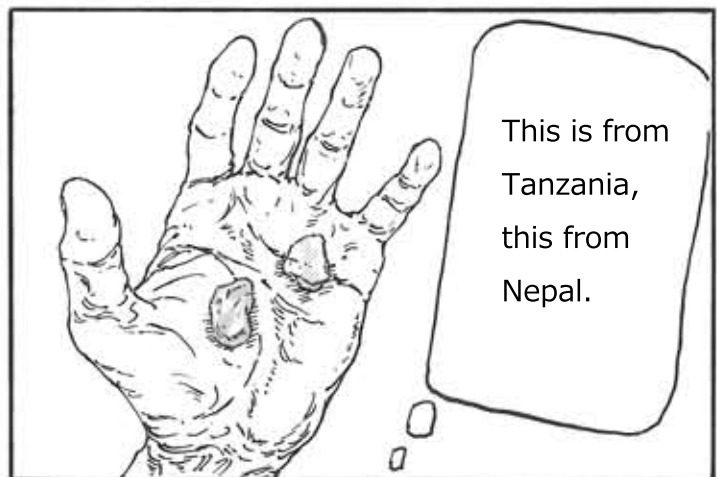
I'd like to
go and see
them for
myself.

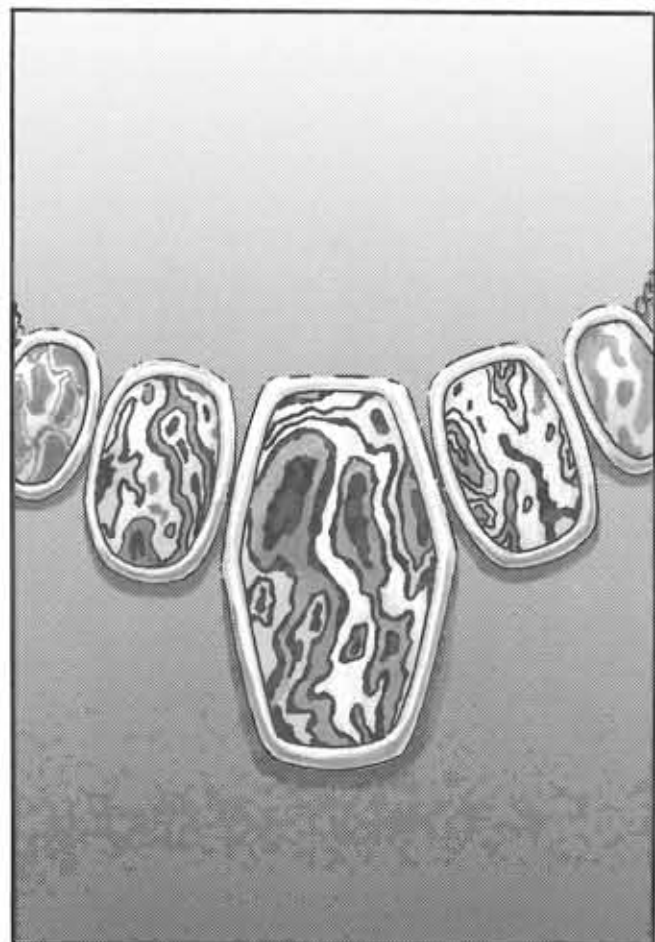
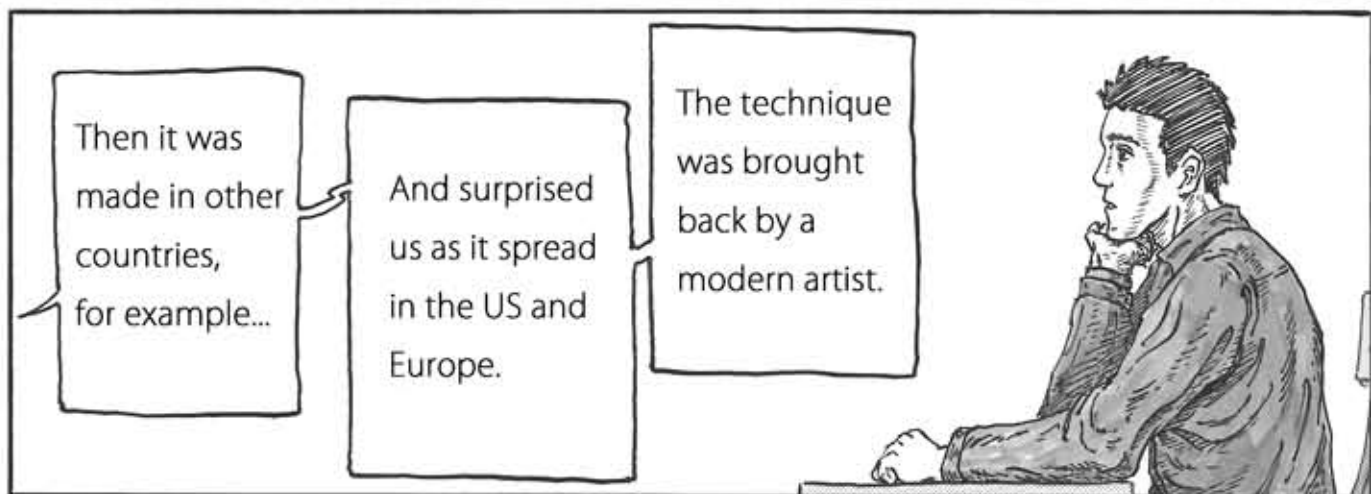
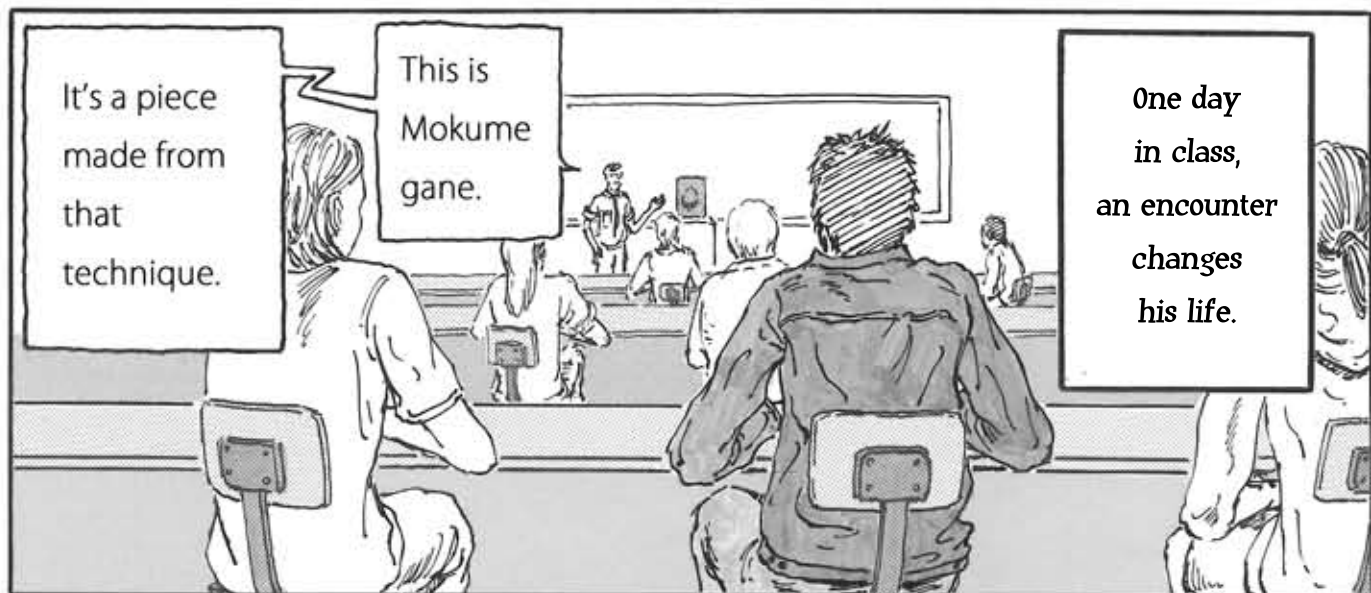


Nice...

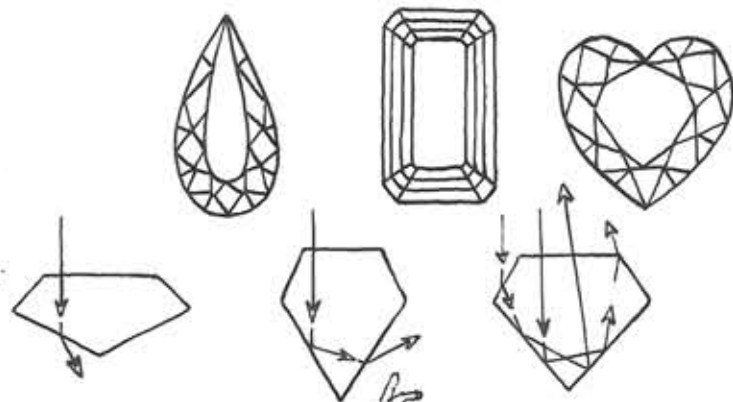
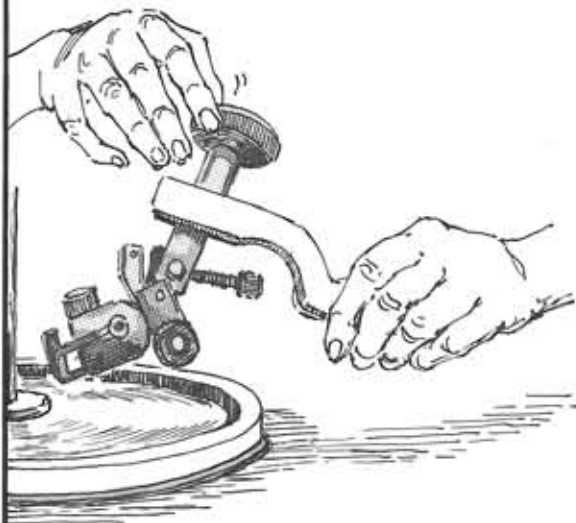
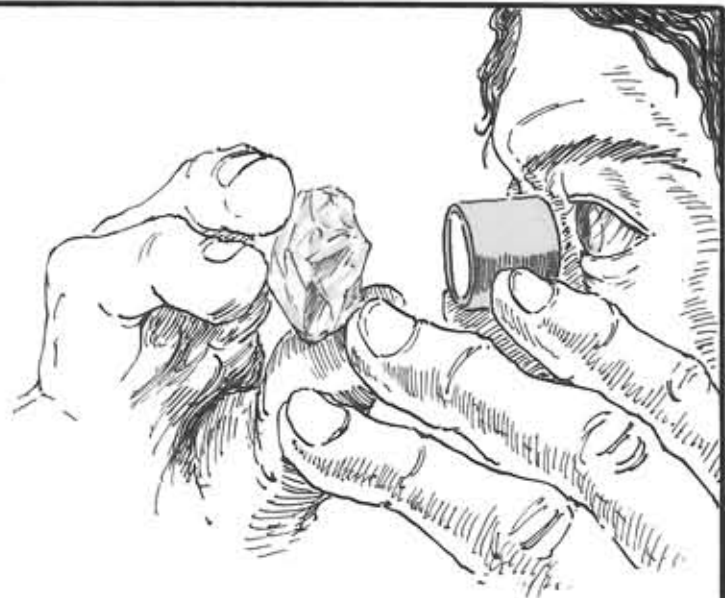


This is from
Tanzania,
this from
Nepal.



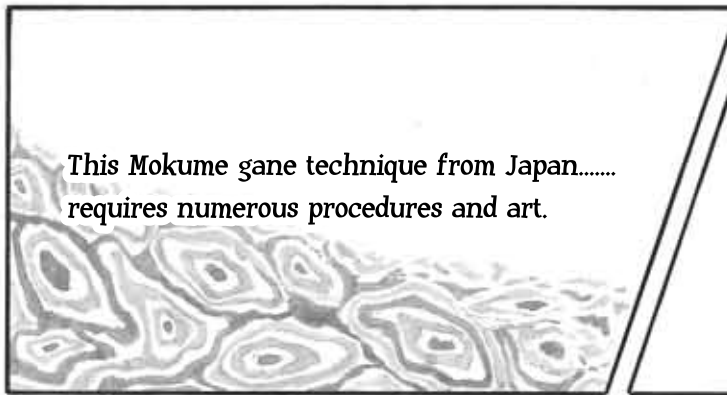


Although graduating GIA with top grades,
he still didn't feel complete.
He travels to India and learns the technique on
polishing diamonds.



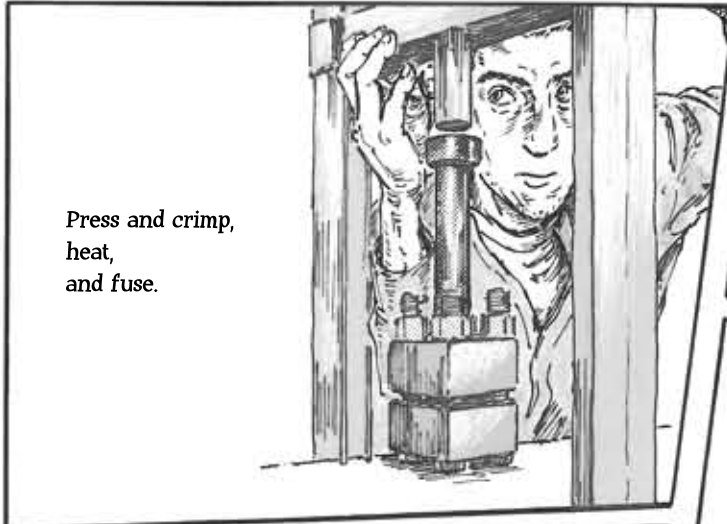
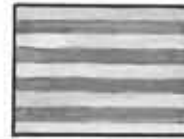
But he still has desire for more.
At this time he finds Aikido,
and becomes passionate for it
like he did for rock climbing.



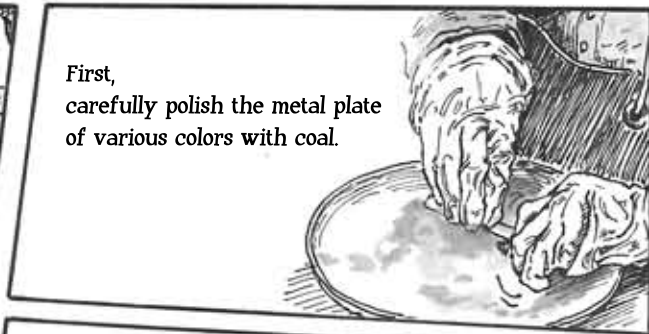


This Mokume gane technique from Japan.....
requires numerous procedures and art.

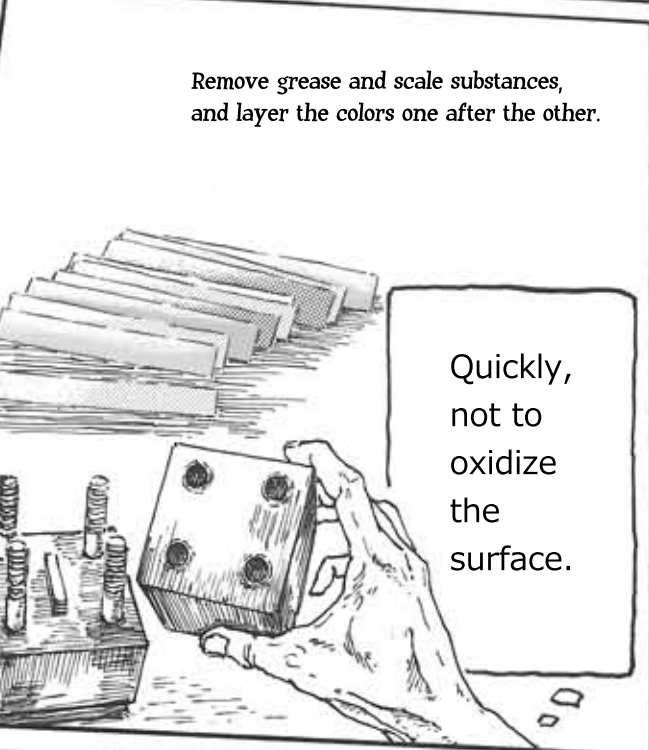
At last he learns
the Mokume gane jewelry making
in Catalonia and Switzerland.



Press and crimp,
heat,
and fuse.



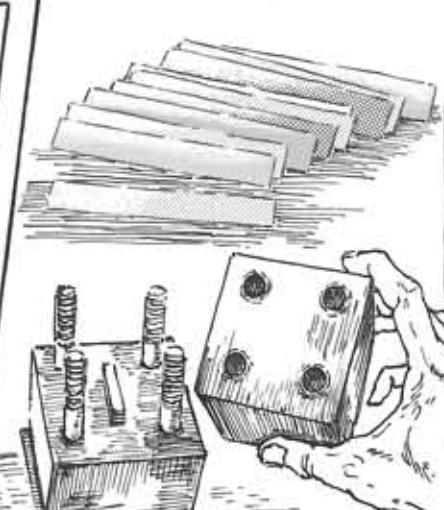
First,
carefully polish the metal plate
of various colors with coal.



Remove grease and scale substances,
and layer the colors one after the other.



Concentrate,
concentrate,
concentrate...

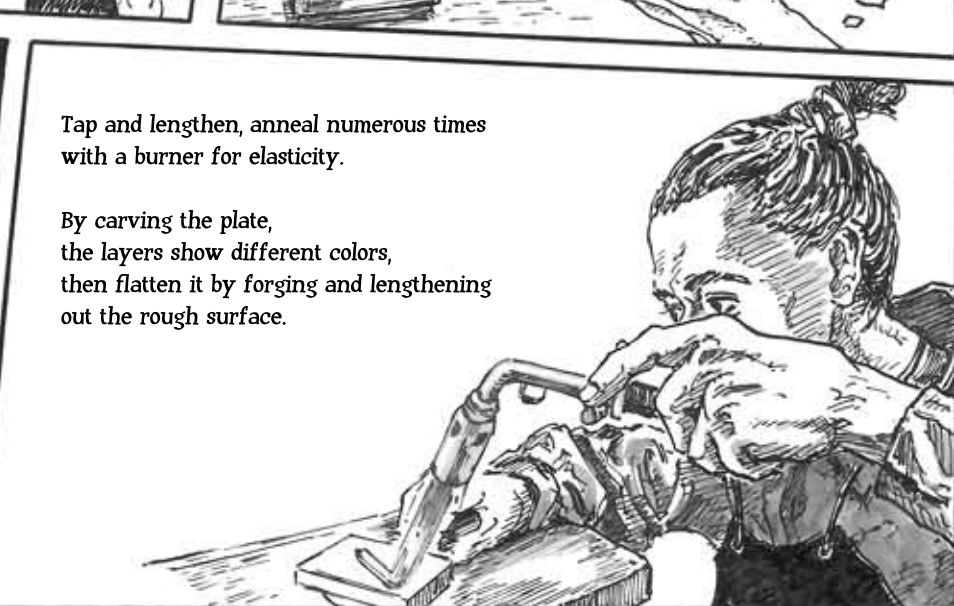


Quickly,
not to
oxidize
the
surface.

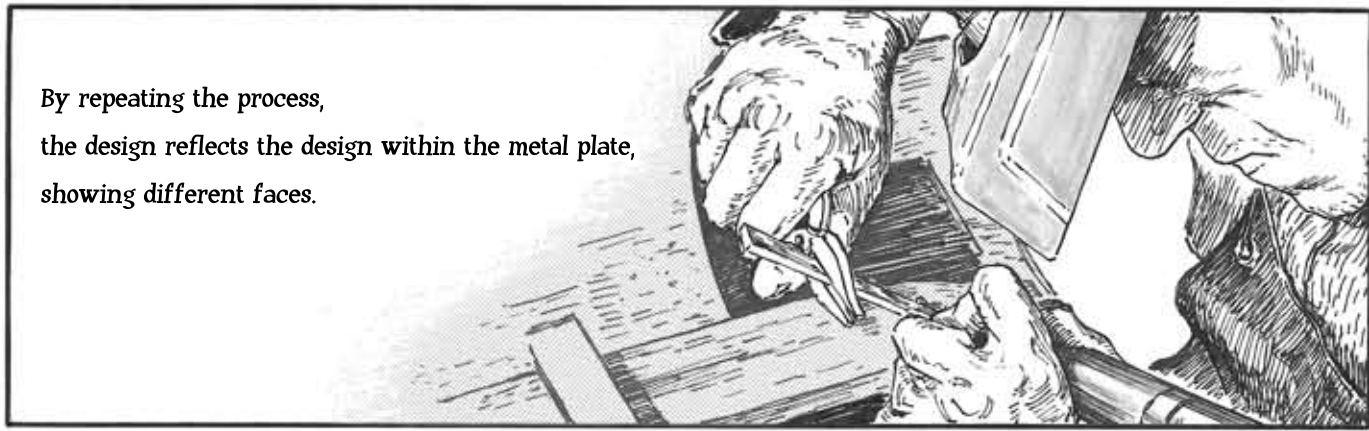


Tap and lengthen, anneal numerous times
with a burner for elasticity.

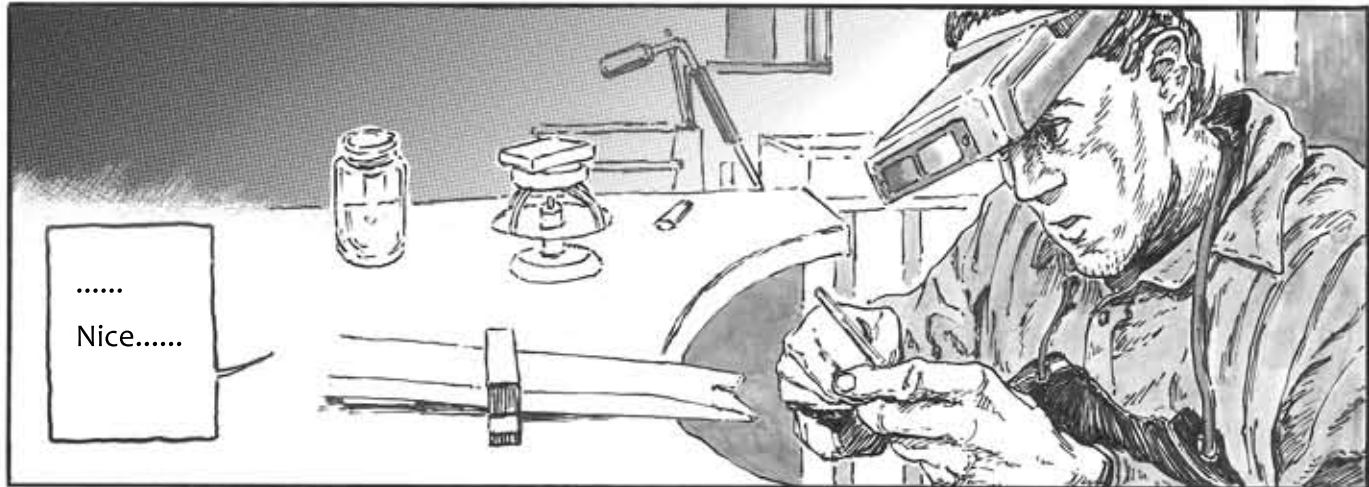
By carving the plate,
the layers show different colors,
then flatten it by forging and lengthening
out the rough surface.



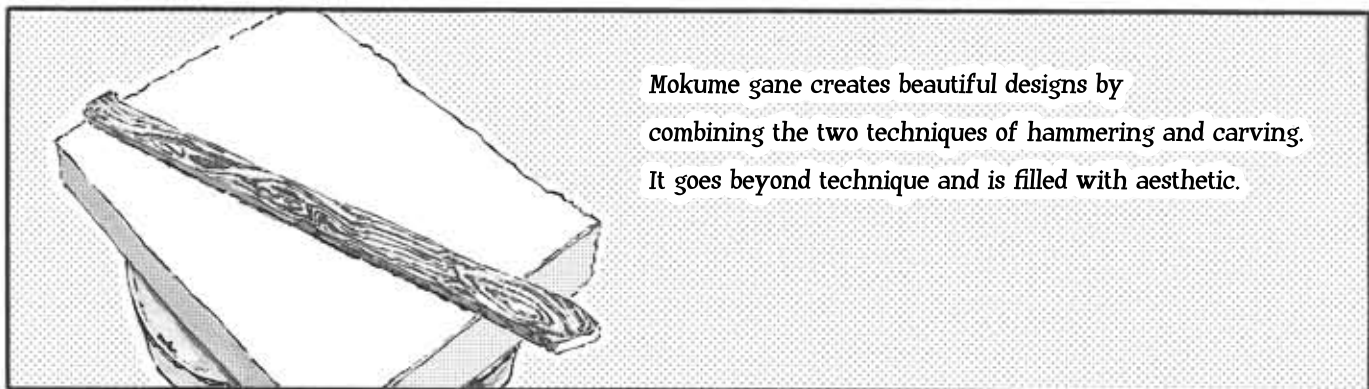
By repeating the process,
the design reflects the design within the metal plate,
showing different faces.



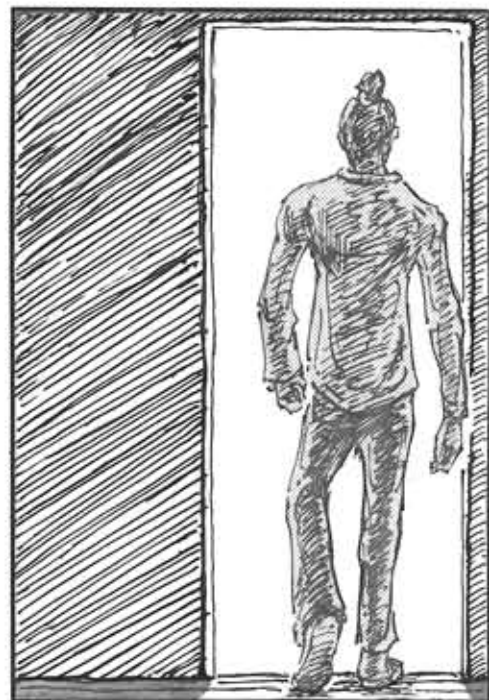
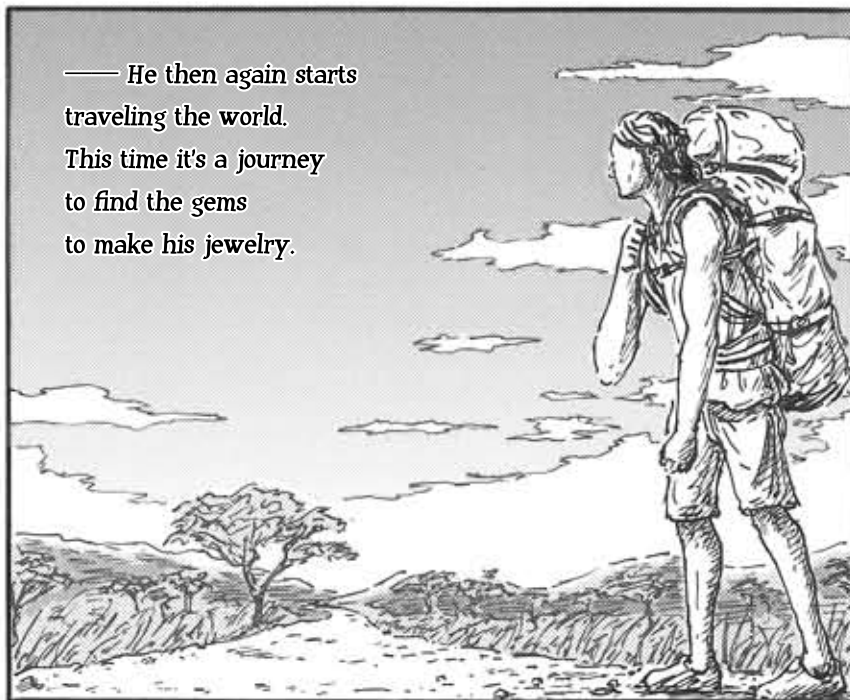
.....
Nice.....



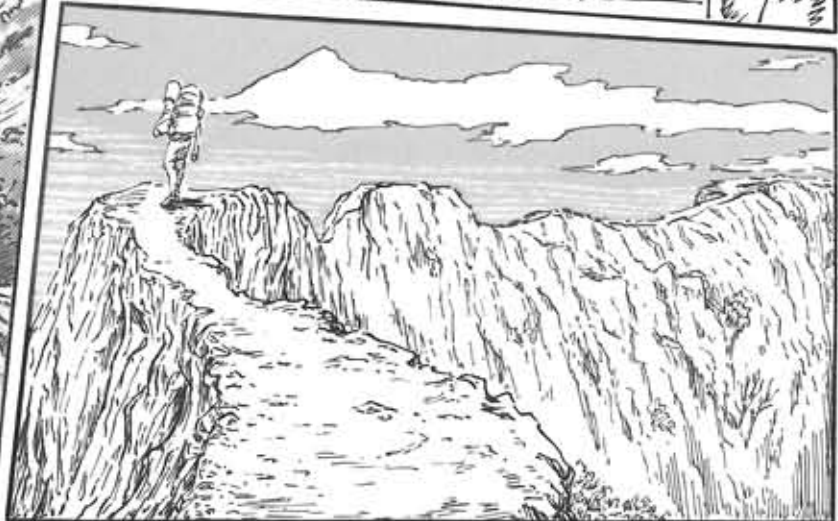
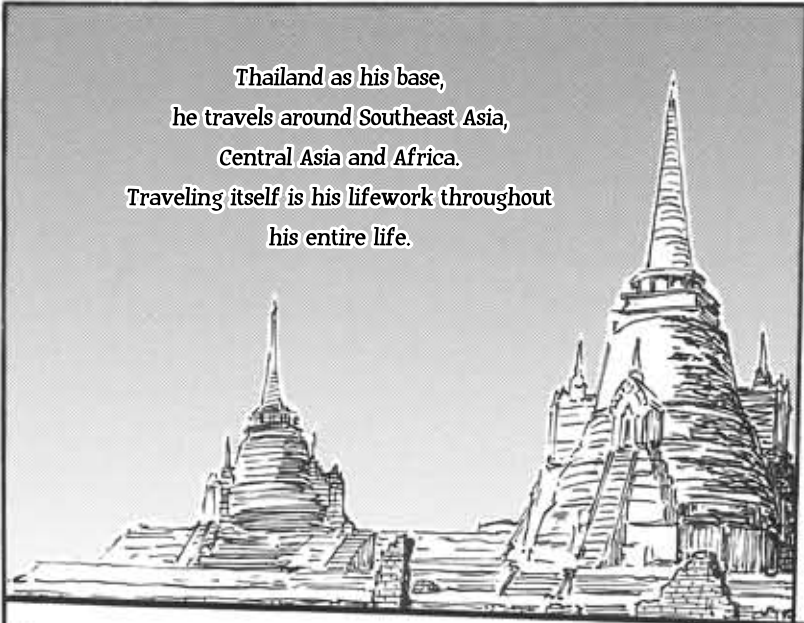
Mokume gane creates beautiful designs by
combining the two techniques of hammering and carving.
It goes beyond technique and is filled with aesthetic.



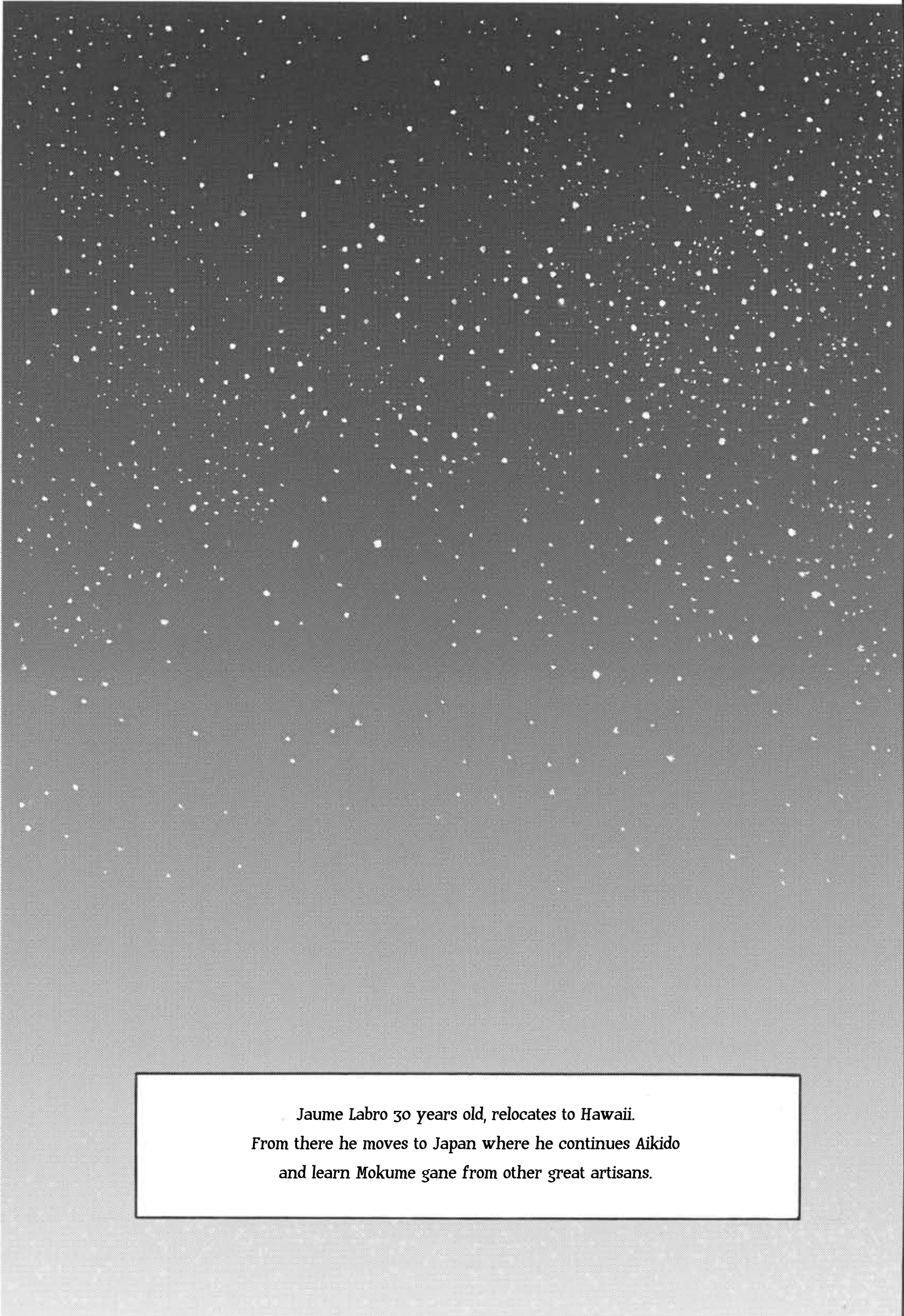
—— He then again starts
traveling the world.
This time it's a journey
to find the gems
to make his jewelry.



Thailand as his base,
he travels around Southeast Asia,
Central Asia and Africa.
Traveling itself is his lifework throughout
his entire life.



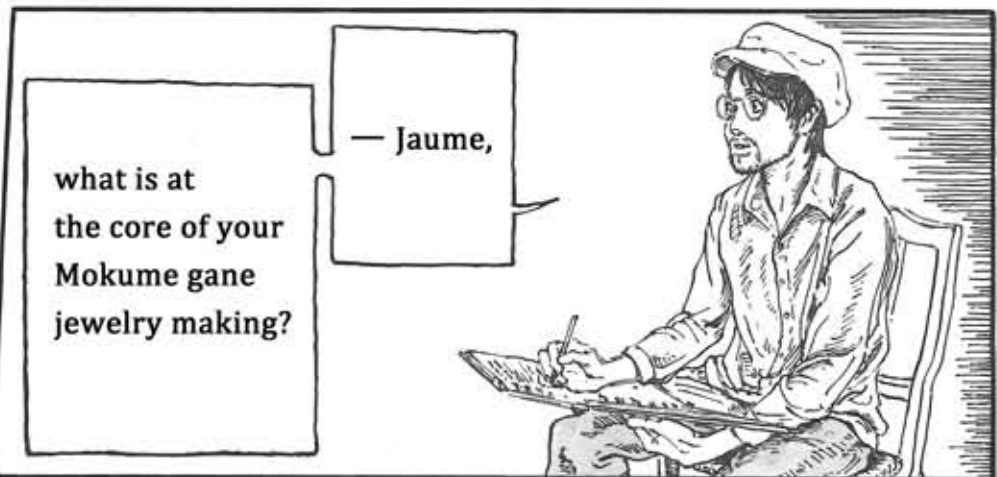




Jaume Labro 30 years old, relocates to Hawaii.
From there he moves to Japan where he continues Aikido
and learn Mokume gane from other great artisans.



Si...



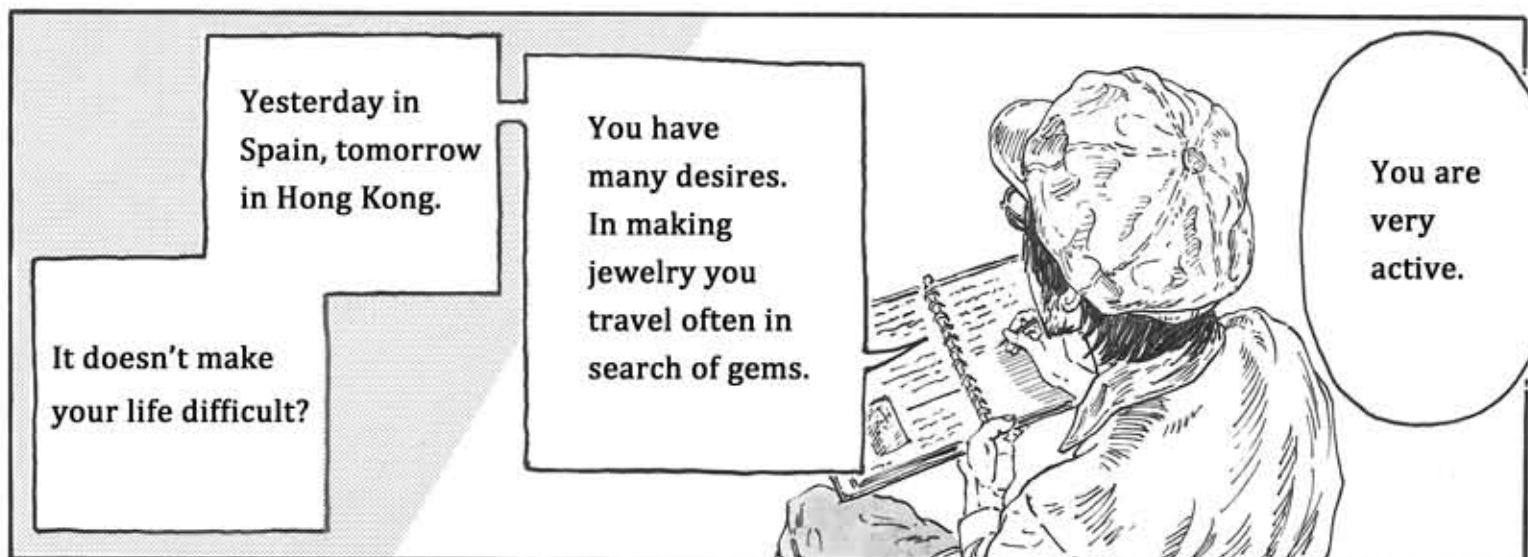
— Jaume,

what is at
the core of your
Mokume gane
jewelry making?



Also.....
I want to maintain
the technique
and beauty of
Mokume gane
and combine with
my creativity.

I liked jewelry
since I was a
child,
it's been a dream
since then.



You are
very
active.

Yesterday in
Spain, tomorrow
in Hong Kong.

It doesn't make
your life difficult?

You have
many desires.
In making
jewelry you
travel often in
search of gems.



So
this lifestyle
suits me well.

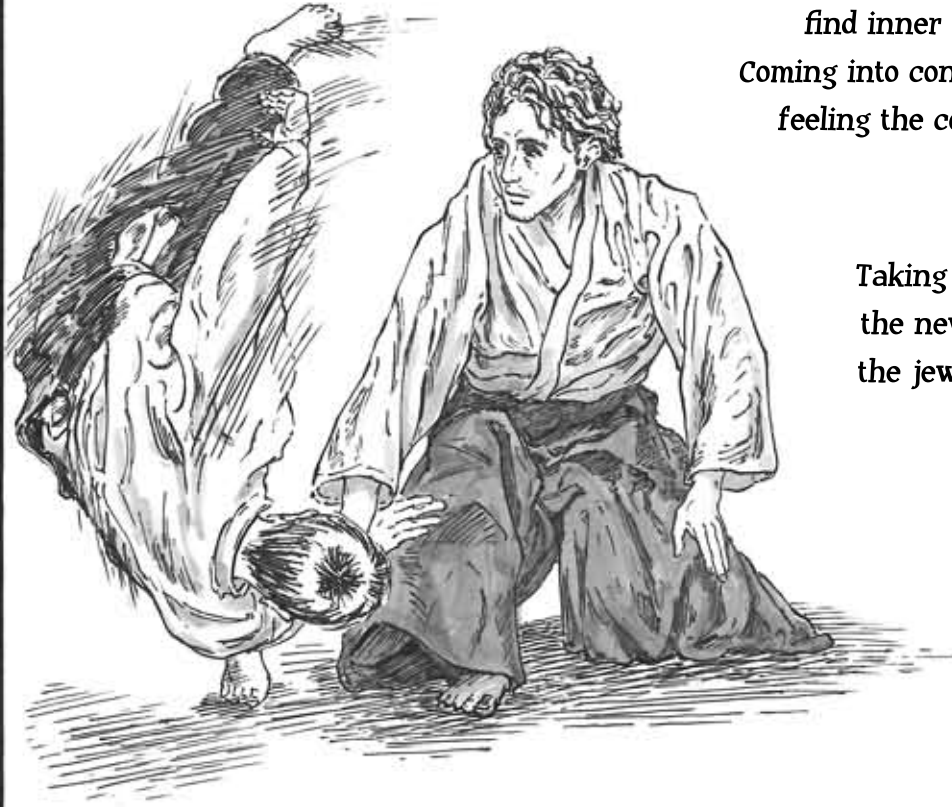
Its everything
about
meeting people,
the uniqueness
of nature,
the gastronomy
of the region.

Of course
for gems too
but I like
traveling.

Perhaps he needs various things to keep him going.
Climbing, traveling, Aikido all seem unrelated to each other.
But all these experiences become one within him,
and become a new part of him.

Moving the body.
Noticing the body physically and
find inner depth by concentration.
Coming into contact with nature and people,
feeling the connection with the world.

Taking it all in as a part of himself,
the newly cultivated spirit reflects
the jewelry he continues to create.

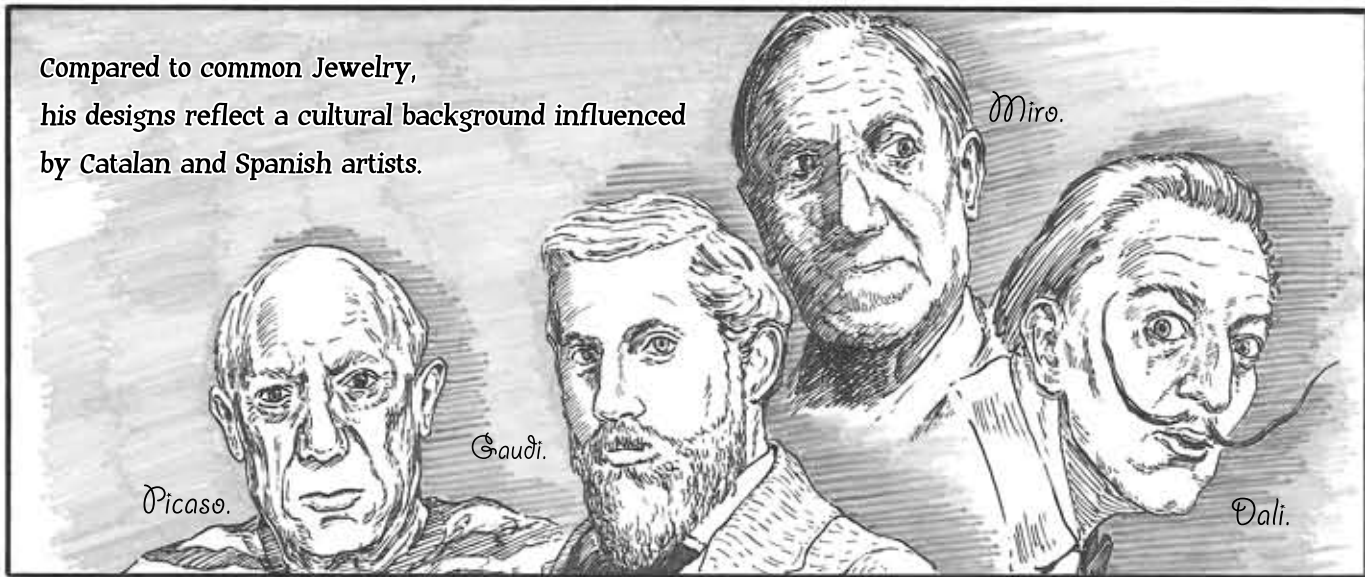


He's a jewelry artist, but a professional.
Although, I feel that his aspect on enjoying the world
and life freely is the essence of "Jaume Labro".

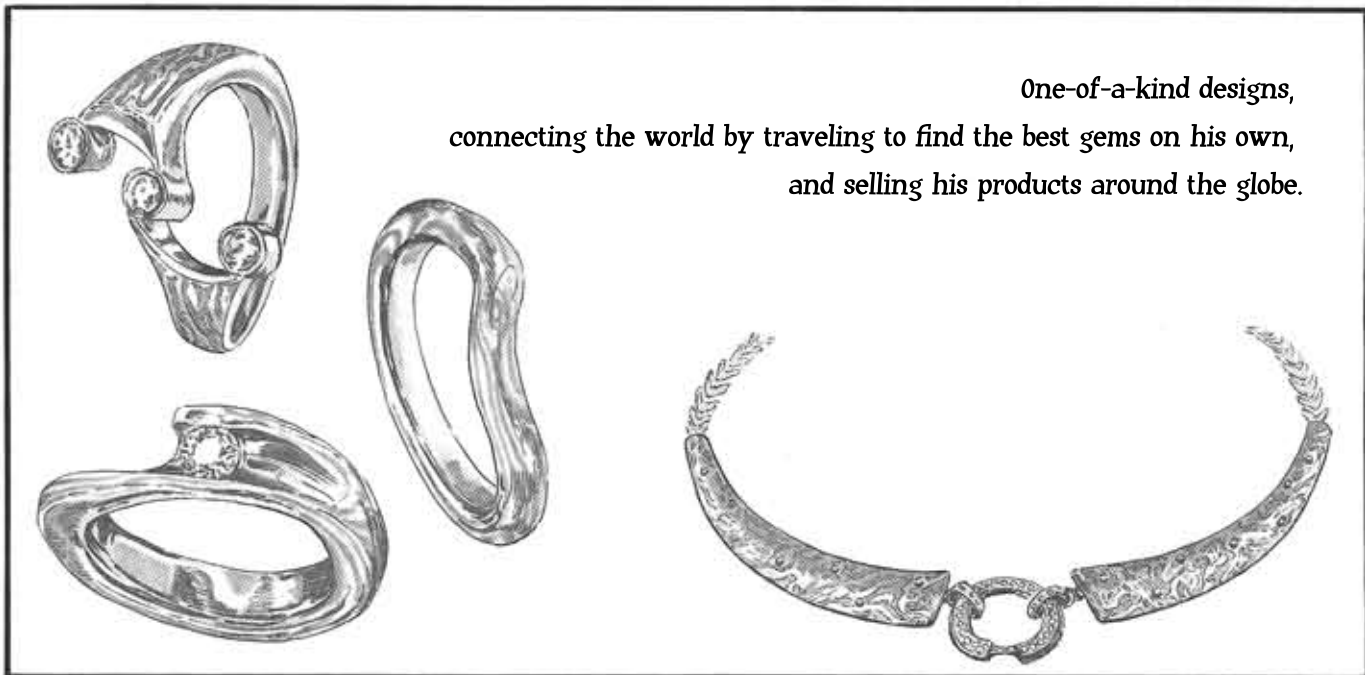
Continuously repeating
the input and output on a larger scale,
this circulation much like the breath is
the fascination of "LABRO Jewelry"



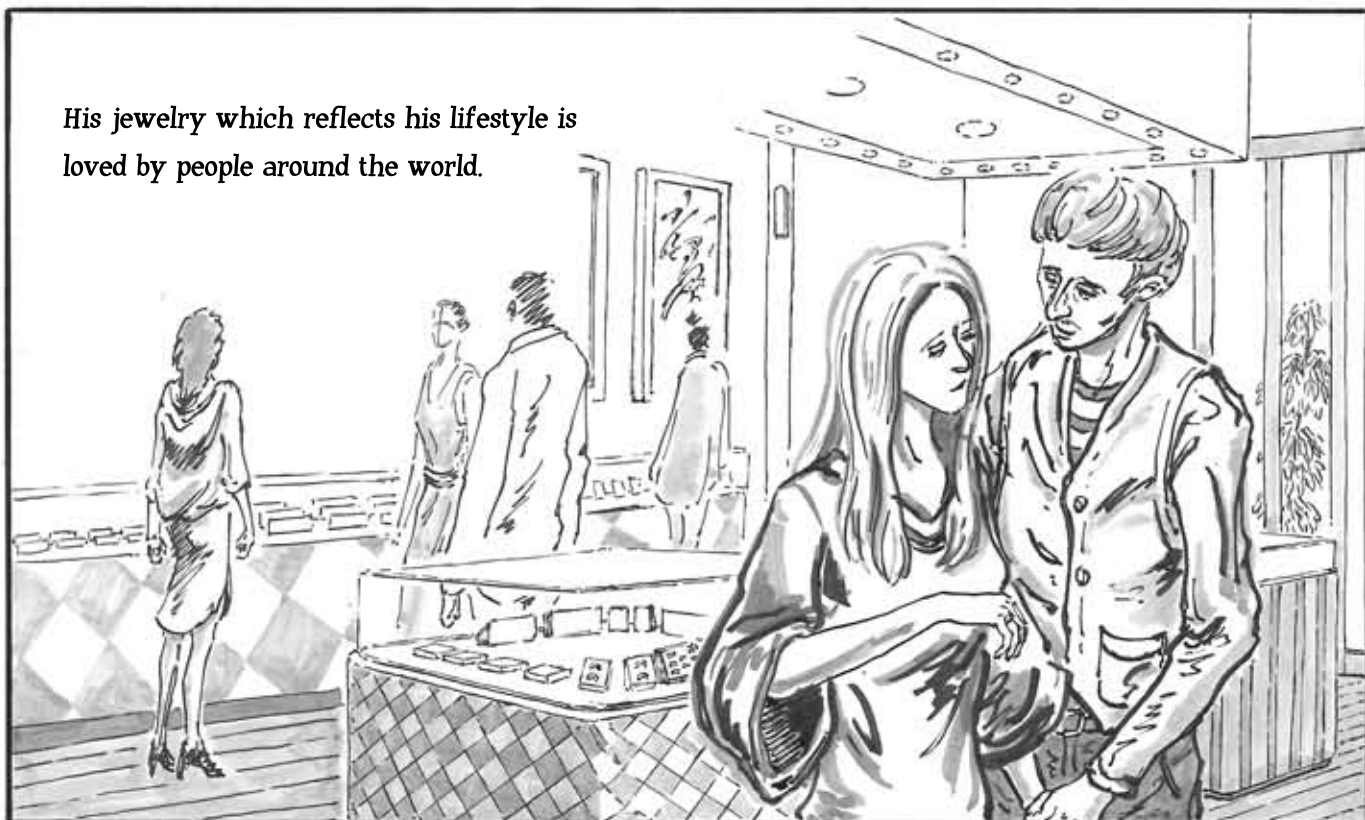
Compared to common Jewelry,
his designs reflect a cultural background influenced
by Catalan and Spanish artists.



One-of-a-kind designs,
connecting the world by traveling to find the best gems on his own,
and selling his products around the globe.



His jewelry which reflects his lifestyle is
loved by people around the world.



He still continues to explore the world.



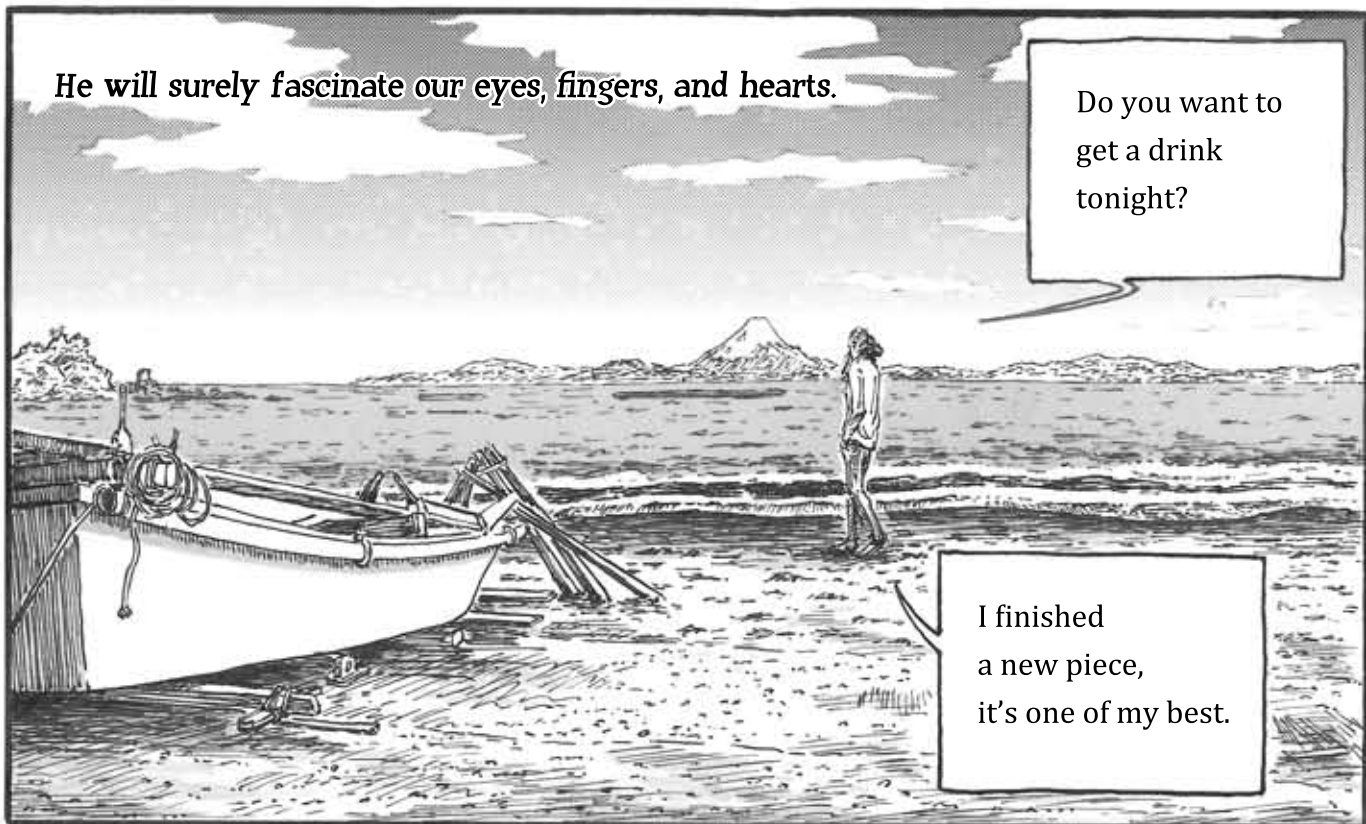
Even today
he is creating jewelry
with fresh ideas.



He will surely fascinate our eyes, fingers, and hearts.

Do you want to
get a drink
tonight?

I finished
a new piece,
it's one of my best.



My thoughts....

I have learned to appreciate everything that is unique and timeless
based on my own experience in this world of many wonders.

I evolve in order to satisfy my own creative instincts.

The craft of jewelry is a miniature form of art,
where even the smallest details invisible to the naked eye are important.
Visible perfection and luxury is dependent on the invisible details.

When I get excited about a gem, it will instantly stimulate
a creative brainstorming process to determine the best design possible.
I seek to enhance the beauty of each unique stone by choosing a design
that matches and enhances the shape and personality of the gem
rather than adapting the gem to a predetermined design idea.
The gem is the vehicle I use to reach the final design.

Having a truly unique, custom-made piece of jewelry that can be
handed down to your children and grandchildren is infinitely satisfying.

Turning your personal inspiration into a reality.
Combining the power of your imagination with the skills
and turning it into wearable art.

Even when I'm not existing in this world anymore,
my designs will remain as my personal trademark,
fine jewelry created from my experiences accumulated during a lifetime...

Jaume Labro



An introduction to Jaume Labro's world,
where design, art, craftsmanship, gemology, traveling and much more are in synchrony,
in a life devoted to create the most elegant fine-jewels for unique people around the world.

Jaume Labro creates wearable art where the meaning of luxury
and the story behind the piece become one.

~Jaume Labro~
The Story behind him

History: Jaume Labro
Project Management: Kei Tamura
Illustration: Yuu Kashihara
Translation: Hiroko Fukazawa

www.labromokumegane.com
www.jaumelabro.com