

Activity in the Hamon

Depending on the quenching conditions, various patterns can appear in the blade. These are called '*hataraki*' (activity) and examining them is an important stage in artistic appraisals.

1. *Hakikake* (掃き掛け) Literally, 'swept with a broom'. A series of parallel lines in the bōshi (the hamon at the tip of the blade).
2. *Yō* (葉) Discrete points in the hamon that almost resemble scattered fallen leaves.
3. *Ashi* (足) Small lines that reach towards the edge of the blade from the edge of the hamon.
4. *Inazuma* (稲妻) Short lines in the hamon of bright, irregularly snaking nie that resemble lightning.
5. *Kinsuji* (金筋) Short lines in the hamon of bright nie. Unlike inazuma, they don't wind and bend.
6. *Saka ashi* (逆足) Ashi that slant upwards towards the point.
7. *Yubashiri* (湯走り) Smatterings of water drop-like nie and nioi that flow out of the hamon and into the rest of the blade.
8. *Sunagashi* (砂流し) Gently undulating parallel lines in the hamon that look like the flowing river-bed sand.
9. *Muneyaki* (棟焼き) An area where the spine of the blade has been hardened.

