Ishikawa Prefecture has not only preserved its traditional culture but the prefecture also has a progressive spirit that is conducive to the introduction of new ideas. A friendly competition between the old and the new produces a creative energy, fostering Ishikawa’s rich cultural landscape.

The 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, which opened in 2004, is one example of this cultural richness. The circular, glass-walled building that houses the museum can be said to be a work of art in itself, and its collection of modern and contemporary works from both Japan and abroad attracts a great deal of attention. The museum has been featured in magazines such as Newsweek and Beaux Arts.

In this “kingdom of traditional crafts”, there is an increasing number of artists working with glass and other new media. Also, along with traditional Japanese music such as koto, nagauta, subayashi and shamisen, Western music is also very popular. In 2008, Kanazawa became the seventh city in the world to hold the La Folle Journées event, and there is an annual jazz festival that attracts a huge audience.