



Friends of Sumi-e

May 2026

Volume 4 | No. 5

Dear Friends of Sumi-e,

This year is the 100th anniversary of the San Diego Museum of Art. There is a special exhibit of archival objects and photos commemorating highlights of the museum's history on display and free to the public in the hallway adjacent to Panama 66. It may evoke some old memories for those of us who have been long-time patrons of the museum and provide some insight to the many changes that have taken place over the years. One of the most intriguing facts is that the museum was turned into a hospital for wounded soldiers during WWII, necessitating all art be relocated for the duration. I was lucky to have a docent-led tour of the hallway some months ago, but it is still there for your enjoyment and enlightenment.

This Spring has brought many opportunities for outreach to the community and I extend sincere gratitude to the many members who have stepped up to share their time and talent. If you missed out on these activities there will be plenty of ways for you to share the load when our next show rolls around June 26,27,28. Please participate using Sign-up-Genius when it comes your way via email!

Still learning,

Sylvia

JUNE EXHIBIT & SALE A RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBIT**



It's coming . . .
Our first summer exhibit/show
Saturday/Sunday June 27-28, 2026
Room 101 | Casa del Prado
Friday, June 26 Setup and Art Delivery

JUNE EXHIBIT & SALE A RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBIT**

We would like up to three (3) pieces per participant.

Please share one of your newer pieces and one earlier work showing progression in your practice. The third piece can be of your choosing.

This will be a quiet, centered exhibit highlighting student work and our progression through the years of study. No stressing allowed!

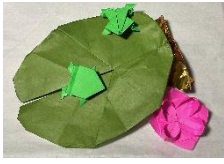
We will, of course, have our tea, origami and hands-on demo tables, and we always need all members to share the load as our community continues to share sumi-e with the public.

We also would like to again have our Marketplace table with small sumi-e related items and the hinadan area for smaller personal works.

We ask that you use SignUp Genius, when it becomes available, and pick where you would like to participate.

If you have suggestions or questions, please contact Kathy at kathyladyann@gmail.com or 619.665.2477.

****a generally comprehensive exhibition, compilation, or performance of the work of an artist over a span of years**



FIRST WEDNESDAY ORIGAMI GANG

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

9:00 AM to Noon

Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

Join Vickie in room 104 Wednesday May 6th. She is planning an exciting time with Pond Life – Frogs and a Water Lily. Please RSVP to her at lavegilmore@gmail.com.

MAY WORKSHOP

Spontaneity and Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind: Get Out of Your Own Way

(with Julia Kazan Roth)

Saturday, May 2, 2026 | 9:30am to 12:30 pm

SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

9005 Aero Drive, San Diego, 92123

Why do you paint?

Worried whether your painting is as good as others' work in the class? Well, stop that right now! Just ask: "Why do I paint?" This is "Meditating Frog" by Sengai Gibon (1750-1837), in the Idematsu Museum of Arts, Tokyo.

Art Comments. Stephen Addiss notes:



"Sengai noticed one day that the way a frog naturally sits is much like zazen [sitting meditation]. ... Sengai began this painting by filling his brush with gray ink, then dipped just the tip in black before beginning the stroke for the head and shoulders of the frog. We can see the first touch of black, then the darker ink continuing on the inside of the curving line until the brush runs out of ink, creating 'flying white' as the stroke ends with a circle for the frog's rump. Second, everything is curved; the calligraphy bends down toward the frog, in reverse direction to the stroke just mentioned, but echoing the similar semi-circles depicting the frog's right arm. Finally, the darkest ink is saved for the frog's face, emphasizing his smiling eyes and mouth."

Again, why do you paint?

Isn't it that you feel something that your words cannot express? Each person has individual gifts given to no one else, so please, get out of your own way. If you paint from the heart (after serious study, of course) your work will have authenticity and chi (vital energy or life force). If you paint to compete, you sabotage your own pleasure as well as the quality of your work.

Reference materials provided in class.

To select subjects for this particular workshop, you can choose from forty 6x9-inch card examples provided from Stephen Addiss & John Daido Looi's work, *The Zen Art Box*. These are not refined, careful pieces by nobles, courtesans, or even emperors. These works are spontaneous, full of chi, painted by Zen masters from the 17th century to the 20th. Seemingly primitive, their purpose is serious -- no less than the art of enlightenment. Each card includes art commentary and Zen teaching on the back. You may not want to spend a long time on a single piece but perhaps try a few different ones. Many of the 6x9-inch cards are solely calligraphy. But why not take the risk and try it, knowing that your effort will not be perfect? Culturally as important as painting, Asian brush calligraphy is often displayed in museums. If you enjoy calligraphy and want to continue, please find a class or instructor.

What you will need:

The Four Treasures:

Ink stick [sumi]

Ink stone [suzuri]

Paper [washi]

Brush [fude]

White mixing plate

Felt, preferably white

Paper weights

Paper towels, smooth-textured

Watercolors if desired

You also need:

Water dish and water

Inexpensive plastic tablecloth to protect your work table

* References For guidance ahead of the workshop, these sources of reference materials may arrive in time but are not necessary. Most are available on www.amazon.com.

- Stephen Addiss & John Daido Looi, *The Zen Art Book: The Art of Enlightenment*, Shambhala Publications Inc., Boston, 2009. ISBN 978-1-59030-747-2. The illustrations are identical to those in *The Zen Art Box* below.
- Stephen Addiss & John Daido Looi, *The Zen Art Box: The Art of Enlightenment*. 40 exquisite reproductions, each with art commentary and Zen teaching, Shambhala Publications Inc., Boston, 2007. Includes "On Zen Art: Two Essays," "Art As Teacher" by Looi and "Zen Painting and Calligraphy, History and Characteristics," by Addiss, Boston, 2007. [We are using this in class but it's out of print. Used copy may be available from book sellers.]
- Shunryu Suzuki, *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind: Informal talks on Zen meditation and practice*, Weatherhill, New York and Tokyo, 1970. ISBN 0-8348-0079-9.
- Stewart W. Holmes and Chimyo Orioka, *Zen Art for Meditation*, Tuttle Publishing, Hong Kong, 1973. ISBN 978-0-8048-1255-9.

- Eishin Ishimura [text], Giei Sato [drawings], and Bardwell L. Smith [editor], Unsui: A Diary of Zen Monastic Life, 雲水 [clouds and water] University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu, 1973. ISBN 0-8248-0272-1.
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APRIL WORKSHOP

What a great workshop in a nostalgic location (Mission Valley Library). Although our Workshop Leader, Deborah, came down with a respiratory ailment at the last minute, we banded together and presented her wonderful material and soldiered on. Lovely artwork was produced and everyone (lots of us!) had a fine time. Thanks to Deborah for her hard research, to Cindy for securing the space and to everyone for working together to make a successful workshop. See photos at the end of the Newsletter!

SUMMER CLASSES

Our intrepid Cliff Brown has researched registration for Summer Classes at SDCCD and has provided the following information:

“I have researched SDCCD Summer classes. SDCCD has grouped three to four classes under a single Class Registration Number (CRN). You can start filling your shopping cart now. Registration open on Monday, May fourth.

I have attached a schedule of the three relevant CRNs. Tatsuko is not teaching this Summer.”

Instructor	Days/Time	Class Number	Start/End Date
Naoko Ozaki, Renee Corwin (co-teach)	Naoko Mondays: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm & Naoko Saturdays 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon	CRN 31164 (covers four different sections)	6/8/26 to 7/18/26
Iris Lowe, Sharon Hinckley (co-teach)	Iris Fridays: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm	CRN 31162 (covers four different sessions)	6/15/26 to 7/25/26
Naoko Ozaki, Michiyo Kirkpatrick (co-teach)	Naoko Tuesday: 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm	CRN 31396 (covers three different sections)	6/8/26 to 7/18/26

Thanks, Cliff, for making Summer so clear!

WORKSHOP TEAM

Many thanks to our hard-working Workshop Team for this year’s fantastic workshop schedule. When you see them, be sure to give them a hearty handshake and a BIG thanks!

Cliff Chally	clckms@sbeglobal.net
Beverly Edge	beveredge2@yahoo.com
Cynthia Ramirez	cynthia.architecture@gmail.com



It is with sadness that we observe the passing of Joan Rasp's husband, Ed, and Hiromi Brinkmeier's mother. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts during this time. If you would like to send a card, their contact information is:

Joan Rasp | 636 Fig Avenue | Chula Vista, CA 91910

Hiromi Brinkmeier | 8005 Culowee Street | La Mesa, CA 91942

For those of us who are familiar with the greater Asian Art community, we have lost two members of Lung Hsiang in the past month or so - Jan Macauley and Rose Firsten. Remember them and their families.



JOIN US!

Friends of Sumi-e

JAPANESE BRUSH
PAINTING EXHIBITION
& SALE

JUNE 27-28, 2026

11:00AM-4:00 PM

LOCATION

Room 101, Casa del Prado,
Balboa Park



Artwork by
Clifford
Brown



Explore the world of Japanese Brush Painting: view the beautiful paintings, taste the wonderful snacks and tea, listen to the enchanting music, try your hand at origami or at our experiential table and take home your own masterpiece.

Do a little shopping, too, at our Marketplace.

Free Admission

**Beautiful Japanese
Brush Ink Art**

**Delicious Japanese
snacks and green
tea**

**Delightful Japanese
music**

Upcoming Workshops & Society Events/Activities
All in Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park from 9:00 AM to Noon unless otherwise noted

May	May 2	Saturday Workshop	Spontaneity with Julie Serra Mesa Library
	May 6	Wednesday Workshop	POND LIFE – Frogs & A Water Lily Room 104
June	June 3	Wednesday Workshop	TBD
	June 6	Saturday Workshop	Show Preparation Mounting Workshop Room 104
July	July 1	Wednesday Workshop	TBD
	July 4		DARK
August	August 1	Saturday Workshop	Painting on Dark Paper with Sarah & Kathy Room 104
	August 5	Wednesday Workshop	TBD
September	September 2	Wednesday Workshop	TBD
	September 5	Party!	Annual Gathering
October	October 3	Saturday Workshop	Festival of Trees Decorations Workshop with Kathy Room 104
	October 7	Wednesday Workshop	TBD
November	November 4	Wednesday Workshop	TBD
	November 7	Saturday Field Trip	Field trip to Oriental Art Supply & Lunch Watch for more information
December	December 2	Wednesday Workshop	TBD
			DARK



Joe Cross Classes – 1st Saturday of the month at 1:00 PM

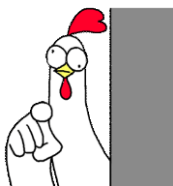
Tuesday Painters: Currently on hiatus

Representation matters - every person deserves to see themselves in art. - Amy Sherald

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR | EXHIBITION OF FINE ART



It's that time of year again! Please consider submitting your masterpieces to the San Diego County Fair. The Asian Art Division has decreased in size over the past few years and is in danger of disappearing altogether. It is to our advantage to keep this division strong. Please consider your strengths and enter in 2026. Here is the link to everything you need to know. It's easy and fun!



The deadline to enter is fast approaching: April 27, 2026 at 8:00 PM

<https://www.sdfair.com/p/participate/entry/fine-art>

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Because of our very cool website (www.friendsofsumi-e.com) we are periodically contacted to share our love of sumi-e with various community groups. Here are some outreach events that you can choose from:

- San Diego River Foundation Plein Aire events **May 9-17** at various locations along the San Diego River. Of interest to Friends of Sumi-e may be Mission Trails Regional Park, the Famosa Slough (Point Loma/Ocean Beach) or Dog Beach in Ocean Beach. Contact Gaye (ralsgal@gmail.com) if you are interested in further information. This is an opportunity to be outdoors and meet some new folks as well as share our love of Sumi-e and promote our upcoming June Exhibition.
- San Diego County Fair: Demonstration of Camellia Japonica in Sumi-e on **July 2nd at 2:00 PM**. Tables and chairs are provided. Parking, transportation from the parking area to front gate and entry fees are all provided. Additional free passes are provided, too! Contact Gaye (ralsgal@gmail.com) if you are interested for further information. Again, this is an opportunity to be outdoors in the beautiful County Fair garden display section, meet some new folks, share our love of Sumi-e and promote our upcoming June Exhibition.
- We have also been contacted by the Visions Museum of Textile Art at Liberty Station. This museum is developing an exhibition which will open **June 27th and run through October 10th**. It is unclear what is required so, again, if you are interested let Gaye (ralsgal@gmail.com) know and she will keep you posted or put you in direct contact with the museum.

**LEARNING HOW TO BE STILL, TO REALLY BE STILL AND LET LIFE HAPPEN
– THAT STILLNESS BECOMES A RADIANCE. – MORGAN FREEMAN**

Your Editor received this map from San Diego Floral Association. I thought you'd like to have it for reference when you next visit the Botanical Building or come to a workshop in Room 104. All these new plantings are a part of the Phase Two renovation in and outside the Building and the Shade and East Water-Wise Gardens are adjacent to where we meet in Room 104!





OUR TREES
MASTERPIECES

