



# Friends of Sumi-e

December 2025

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Hi Everyone,

With Sylvia's strong leadership, Friends of Sumi-e is moving forward! We had a beautiful June art exhibition, several successful outreach events and a fun Annual Gathering, culminating in a wonderful celebration of the Washu-Kai portion of our society at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its creation at the November exhibition.

Now we look forward to the holiday season and a time to reflect on the coming Year of the Horse, written in kanji as うまどし (umadoshi), specifically the Year of the Fire Horse. Each Fire Horse cycle carries the same bold, fiery energy that shakes things up and moves the world forward. The Fire Horse, known as Bing Wu, is passionate, dynamic and unstoppable.

## Cultural significance

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- **Symbolism:** The horse (uma) is a symbol of vitality, success, and good fortune in Japanese culture.
- **Superstition:** 2026 is the Year of the Fire Horse (hi-no-e-uma), leading to a superstition that girls born in this year are prone to bad tempers and will have bad luck in marriage. This superstition contributed to a significant drop in birth rates in 1966, but its impact is expected to be much smaller in 2026 due to changing social norms and widespread use of contraception.
- **Traditional practices:** Horse-themed traditions include donating horses to Shinto shrines, the *Yabusame* (horseback archery) ceremonies, and the creation of [\*Ema\*](#) (votive horse plaques). *Google*



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The Board/Officers of Friends of Sumi-e look forward to 2026 and another strong year sharing with the public and each other the Joy of Sumi-e. Read on for things to come!

For Sylvia,  
Gaye

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## NOVEMBER EXHIBITION

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Washu-Kai's exhibitions was a resounding success! To those of you who entered your beautiful masterpieces, many thanks and to those of you who volunteered over the weekend, many thanks. And to those who worked tirelessly before, during and after the exhibition, many, many thanks. The exhibition couldn't have happened – and so beautifully – without you! More than 1,000 folks joined us over the two days. I think Washu Sensei would be proud of all of us.

Gaye & Team



The Society at the close of the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration

## DECEMBER WORKSHOP

Saturday, December 6, 2025

9:00 am to 12:00 PM

Dennis Bates' Home (337 Maria Ave., Spring Valley, CA 91977)

Dennis has invited Friends of Sumi-e to join him at his home to paint boulders! Wear old clothes, bring a snack and water and we'll help him embellish his garden. It will be lots of fun and a time to be creative in a different manner. Dennis will provide paint, brushes and boulders. We'll provide creativity and labor. ***Please RSVP to Gaye ([ralsgal@gmail.com](mailto:ralsgal@gmail.com)) by December 3<sup>rd</sup> so we can plan carpooling as parking is limited.***



## FIRST WEDNESDAY ORIGAMI GANG

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

9:00 AM to Noon

Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

The December Origami Gang will make poinsettias for the New Year and we will look forward to January to make red or gold horses for the Shenninkai celebration in February.

***Email Vickie at [lavegilmore@gmail.com](mailto:lavegilmore@gmail.com) with your RSVP.***

## Musings from the Demonstration Table

One of the highlights of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary show was the demonstration table. It was a very popular spot with show attendees. After viewing the amazing art in the show, people both young and older tried their hand at sumi-e painting. Each participant had the option of tracing over an image, using an image as an inspiration, or for some of the more daring, creating their own! What surprised most participants was how well their paintings turned out, even for those literally doing it for the first time.

Other than a few minutes at the beginning of each day or during each sensei's demonstrations, the tables were packed. The enthusiasm from the teacher artists behind the table reflected in the excitement, smiles, and laughter in the participants. A lot of the participants asked about classes and took bookmarks as reminders. One thing is for sure; we will need more supplies for the next demonstration table. We had eight places for people to paint, and people lined up waiting to get their chance at painting. This happened at the outreach event in Miramar as well. It seems that people are hungry to express themselves through painting, try their hand at something different, or engage in something meditative. If the show is any indication, 2026 will be a wonderful year for the Friends of Sumi-e.

Don Phillips, Secretary  
Friends of Sumi-e

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### Upcoming Workshops & Society Events/Activities

**All in Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park from 9:00 AM to Noon unless otherwise noted**

<b>December</b>	Wednesday	December 3	Wednesday Workshop	Origami Poinsettia with Vickie
	Saturday	December 6	Saturday Workshop	Boulder Painting @ Dennis Bates' Home
<b>January</b>	Saturday	January 3	Saturday Workshop	Year of the Fire Horse with Louise Rendich
	Wednesday	January 7	Wednesday Workshop	Red or Gold Horse with Vickie in preparation for Shenninkai celebration
<b>February</b>	Wednesday	February 4	Wednesday Workshop	TBD
	Saturday	February 7	Shenninkai	TBD
<b>March</b>	Wednesday	March 4	Wednesday Workshop	TBD
	Saturday	March 7	Saturday Workshop	TBD
<b>April</b>	Wednesday	April 1	Wednesday Workshop	TBD
	Saturday	April 4	Saturday Workshop	TBD



Joe Cross Classes – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month at 1:00 PM



Tuesday Painters: Currently on hiatus

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*Photo Memories*

