



Friends of Sumi-e

September 2026

Volume 4 | No. 9

Dear Friends of Sumi-e,

Yesterday I attended the KPBS sponsored Book Festival at University of San Diego and was amazed at the energy generated around books and reading. With a spontaneous chat with a total stranger, I managed to capture a seat in two of the ticketed author interviews (one was sold out) and heard incredible personal stories about not just being an author but being a person discovering life in this world. It was an inspiring day, and it inspired me to continue my life-long quest of trying to figure out who I am and where I fit in. If you have never gone, I highly recommend checking out the Book Festival, which has become an annual event.

My wish is for all of us in Friends of Sumi-e is to find our individual voices through our art and through sharing our talent with the public in our next show in November.

Still learning,

Sylvia

AUGUST WORKSHOP

What a fun and creative workshop led by Sarah Barnes and Kathy McMillen! With a brief introduction, we were all cut loose with dark paper and white and light-colored paints as well as some sparkles. Everyone had a great time and there were some masterpieces created! Thanks again to Sarah and Kathy.

FIRST WEDNESDAY ORIGAMI GANG

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

9:00 am to Noon

Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

This month Vickie leads the intrepid “folders” through an origami journey beginning with the bird base. We’ll start by reviewing the traditional crane. Then, using the same base, we’ll fold an elephant and a monkey. Hope to see all you origami enthusiasts.



SEPTEMBER 5TH ANNUAL GATHERING & POTLUCK
JULIE ROTH’S HOME | 4611 E. TALMADGE DR. 2PM-5PM
RSVP TO THE E-VITE

FIELD TRIP TO ORIENTAL ART SUPPLY

Saturday, November 7, 2026

9:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Friends of Sumi-e sponsors an exciting Field Trip to Oriental Art Supply (OAS) for our November Workshop! For the nominal fee of \$25.00, you can hop on a bus in Old Town with your fellow/sister Sumi-e painters and travel to Orange County for a morning at OAS. There we will receive a private demonstration and have time to browse the OAS shop and do a little shopping for ink, brushes, colors, paper and/or books. Following our visit to OAS, we will head to a pre-selected restaurant and an opportunity to enjoy a cultural luncheon and more time to visit. Then we'll board the bus for our return trip to Old Town. **Where can you find a better deal for \$25.00 than a bus trip to/from OAS, a master demonstration, an opportunity to spend a little money on art goodies, and lunch!**

- Leave from & return to Old Town on Congress St. @ Telegraph Way across the street from the trolley/train station.
- There is a bathroom on the bus.
- Bring a snack and a water bottle for the bus trip.
- We will be joined by members of our Chinese brush painting society friends, Lung Hsiang.
- **If you wish to join the trip, your \$25.00 will be due on or before September 7, 2026.**
- Send your \$25.00 (payable to Friends of Sumi-e) to Cindy Morgan. Her address is 4390 N. Talmadge Dr., San Diego, CA 92116
- Questions: Cliff Chally (Clckms@sbcglobal.net)

ART EXHIBITION

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2026

ROOM 101 – CASA DEL PRADO – BALBOA PARK

As November 14-15 approach for Friends of Sumi-e's 51st annual show and sale, your cheerful show team hopes you're all working hard on those masterpieces. We know that there are a lot of Friends of Sumi-e activities between now and then to keep you entertained/occupied and I hope to see you all at each of them, but our show and sale is very important to our society. We have a theme – **Koyo Festival | Momiji Gari, celebrate change of seasons by viewing the beautiful red maples and golden ginkgoes.** As you know, we always have plenty of folks to help over the show weekend, but we need a team to work ahead of time and behind the scenes to make the show and sale successful. Here are the areas where the team could use some help:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| • Tea Table Team Leader | • Registration Team Leader |
| • Marketplace Team Leader | • Hands-On Experience Team Leader |
| • Reception/Wrapping Team Leader | • Cultural Demonstrations Team Leader |
| • Room Set-Up & Break-Down Team Leader | • Master Demonstration Team Leader |
| • Room Décor Team Leader | |

As you can see, it “takes a village” to make things move smoothly for those wonderful two days! Contact Gaye at ralsgal@gmail.com to let her know where you'd like to help. Sign-up for weekend volunteering will come a bit later on SignUp Genius.

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

September	September 2	Wednesday Workshop	Folding Progressions – Birds to Monkeys & Elephants 9AM to Noon Room 104
	September 5	Party!	Annual Gathering/End of Summer Potluck Julie's Home
October	October 3	Saturday Workshop	Festival of Trees Decorations Workshop with Cynthia & 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 See Article & Flyer for more information
	November 14-15	Saturday-Sunday	Art Exhibition Room 101
December	December 2	Wednesday Workshop	TBD
			DARK



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

Tuesday Painters: Currently on hiatus

OUTREACH

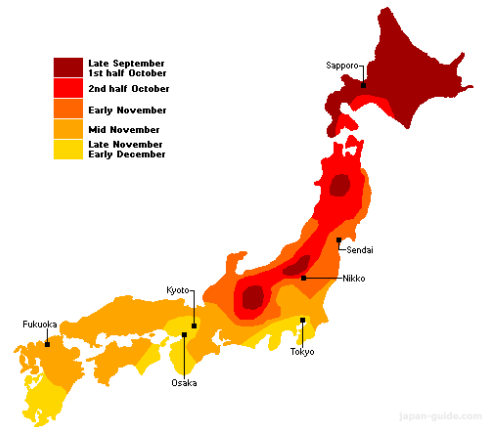
Two Officers will attend a “meet and greet” at the invitation of the Consulates General of Japan in Los Angeles at the Japanese Friendship Garden Inamori Pavilion on August 31st. We'll let you know what we learned in the next Newsletter.

Friends of Sumi-e will again table at the invitation of San Diego Bonsai Club September 26-27. Be sure to support our fellow/sister organization by attending this beautiful show/sale even if you are unable to help at the tabling.

KOYO | MOMIJIGARI

When autumn deepens, Japan is draped in a symphony of red and yellow hues from the fields and mountains to the cities. Known as momijigari, taking outings to appreciate the beauty of this natural phenomenon is a custom that dates back to the Heian period in the 8th century.

Like hanami (cherry blossom viewing) in spring, momijigari was first popular among the court aristocracy that resided in Kyoto. While these nobles had cherry trees growing in their private gardens to admire in spring, there were no trees from which to admire autumn colours. They embarked on excursions to the mountains to seek out the coloured leaves and composed music and poetry using koyo as the backdrop. References to momijigari can be found in notable works of art including the Kokin Wakashu poetry



collection and “The Tale of Genji”, a literary classic. The custom eventually spread to commoners and became widely popular by the mid-18th century.

It is said that there is a religious significance surrounding koyo in ancient Japan where Shinto beliefs held that spirits inhabited nature, from the water to the trees. The mysterious transformation of leaves inspired awe and reverence among people and eventually, just like tea making, a proper ritual emerged for appreciating koyo. For Japanese, koyo is not just a visual spectacle, but an opportunity for quiet contemplation and reflection.

The excitement and reverence surrounding autumn leaves runs deep in Japanese culture.

It is present in the language. The delicate hands of a baby can be described as “hands like tiny maples leaves”. To become red-faced in embarrassment is to “scatter autumn leaves”

It is on the menu. Momiji tempura is a delicious treat where fresh maple leaves are salted or sugared and then fried in tempura batter.

It has inspired the patterns and designs of kimonos and yukatas that are commonly worn during autumn.

It is used as a common visual motif. Maple leaves are often combined with a deer in paintings and other art forms to express the idea of a good pairing. Autumn colours are also used for decorative purposes in everything from hand fans and chopsticks to room dividers.

There are several public holidays in autumn that allow locals to fully embrace momijigari, travelling to the best viewing spots around the country.

