Friends of Sumi-e

October 2026 Volume 4 | No. 10

Dear Friends of Sumi-e,

While attending Vickie's origami workshop Wednesday recently I found out some very interesting, yet tragic information. Some of you may recall Tatsuko Sensei mentioning that she took an origami class from a very accomplished engineer and origami creator, Robert Lang. I took her up on her suggestion to visit his exhibit at the Huntington Library about 11 years ago and was stunned with his creations. He created the folds needed for launching the James Webb telescope years ago. The tragedy is that his house burned down in the Eaton Fire, along with many of his creations. He salvaged some of the paper ashes, made new paper and created some origami which can be seen at the Mingei Museum until November 1. For those who are not members, free admission is available to the Mingei on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. I plan to go. I hope some of you take the time also.

Still learning,

Sylvia

SEPTEMBER GATHERING & POTLUCK

Thank you to Julie and her team for a beautiful, if not HOT, afternoon of friendship and food. A welcoming patio and garden greeted Society members and a fine time was had by all. Pictures to follow . . .

FIRST WEDNESDAY ORIGAMI GANG
Wednesday, October 7, 2026
9:00 am to Noon
Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

Vickie is planning to be in Room 104 for the October workshop. We'll| be folding an origami sheep suitable for use on a New Year's card. It follows an online video by Leyla Torres at this link:
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=leyla+torres+origami+sheep

Here he is with some of his buddies:



OCTOBER WORKSHOP
Saturday, October 3, 2026 | 9:00 am – Noon
Bookmark Ornaments for December Nights/Festival of Trees
Cynthia Ramirez & Kathy McMillen

We are excited to again participate in the San Diego Floral Association's Festival of Trees. The Festival is part of Balboa Park's December Nights Celebration and several thousand folks enjoy the trees. In the past we have painted postcards and ornaments depicting the theme. This year celebrates America's 250th.

Japan, in honor of this celebration, has donated 250 blossoming cherry trees as a gift of our long-standing friendship. They also gave fireworks that were used during the 4th of July event.

Think small.

We will be painting 2" x 6" bookmarks and hanging them on bare birch trees…so bring your small brushes, paints and all Japanese themes that you would like to depict. Of course, some cherry blossoms would be most appropriate!

See you soon!
Cynthia and Kathy

FIELD TRIP TO ORIENTAL ART SUPPLY
Saturday, November 7, 2026
9:30 AM – 5:00 PM



NOTICE: The sign-up for the Field Trip to Oriental Art Supply (OAS) for our November Workshop has been extended to October 31st! The cost for the Field Trip is a nominal $25.00, which includes your bus trip from and to Old Town and a lovely Chinese luncheon as well as private master demonstration at OAS and time to browse the OAS shop and do a little shopping for ink, brushes, colors, paper and/or books.

The particulars are:

- Saturday, November 7, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., bus leaves from Old Town on Congress St. @ Telegraph Way across the street from the trolley/train station. (Arrive early so you don't miss the bus!)
- Travel to Oriental Art Supply for master painting demonstration and perusing the OAS shop to do a little shopping.
- Cultural luncheon at a Chinese restaurant in Huntington Beach
- Return to San Diego via bus at approximately 5:00 pm (same spot in Old Town)
- 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.
- 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)

51st FRIENDS OF SUMI-E | WASHU KAI ART EXHIBITION
NOVEMBER 14-15, 2026
ROOM 101 – CASA DEL PRADO – BALBOA PARK

The 51st Annual Friends of Sumie | Washu Kai Japanese Brush Painting Exhibition and Sale is fast approaching and a number of society activities happen in between now and then. I hope that you are planning to participate in this year's show and sale and are working on your masterpiece or masterpieces to share with the community. I am still looking for folks to help with the pre-show preparations and say thank you to those who have already stepped up to help. You can reach me at ralsgal@gmail.com if you wish to help prior to the show.

I know that all of you who enter artwork will sign up for "duty" sometime over the show weekend and the SignUp Genius will be generated sometime in October - keep your eyes open.

The show flyer is attached to this Newsletter/email so please share it with your family, friends and social media community.

Again, thank you for your support and I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you on November 13th when you bring your artwork, if not sooner. Below are the teams that could use some pre-show help:

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

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

October	October 3	Saturday Workshop	Festival of Trees Ornaments Workshop with Cynthia & Kathy Room 104
	October 7	Wednesday Workshop	Origami Sheep! In preparation for the New Year Room 104
November	November 4	Wednesday Workshop	Origami: 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	Origami: TBD
	December 5	Saturday Workshop	Fire Goat/Sheep & Winter Landscape Alternate Location – watch for more information

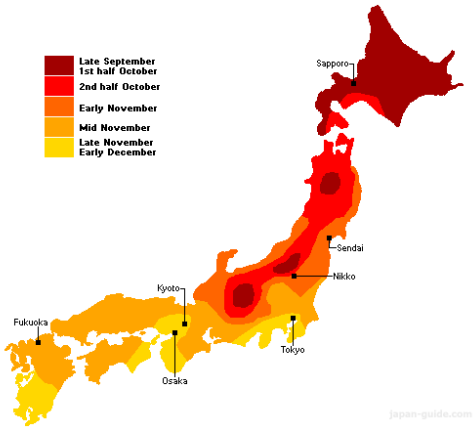
- Joe Cross Classes – 1st Saturday of the month at 1:00 PM
- Tuesday Painters: Currently on hiatus

OUTREACH

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 participate at the tabling.

This is background information for the theme of this year's show and sale:

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 heshld 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.

PHOTOS FROM THE SEPTEMBER GATHERING & POTLUCK @ JULIE'S















