



Friends of Sumi-e

December 2023

Volume 1 | No. 12



Hello Friends of Sumi-e,

This year has been one of change for Washu-Kai and Friends of TakaSumi-e and I believe it was successful! We just completed our first united exhibition with the 48th Annual Fall Exhibition led by Louise Rendich. Many thanks to her excellent leadership and to those who worked with her to make it so successful. About 1,000 guests attended and enjoyed origami, seeing their names written in Japanese calligraphy, sumi-e painting demonstrations, master painting demonstrations and sampling tea and tasty Japanese snacks in addition to viewing our works of art that we so diligently prepared during the year. We now look forward to our Spring art exhibition in March.

In the meantime, Friends of Sumi-e are participating in December Nights and looking forward to Shinnenkai in February - the New Year – the Year of the Dragon!

Paint On My Friends and Enjoy The Holiday Season Each Day, Gaye

48th Annual Art Exhibition

I would like to thank everyone again who participated in the FOS November 2023 art exhibition. Working together, we created a lovely show with varied and beautiful paintings and some activities that were popular with the public. Card sales, textile sales, demonstrations of sumi-e (educating many interested people) all day at the tables and on-stage both days, teaching origami, and our monthly workshop projects display were all popular. Tea and snack sales were busy both days. It was a nice event. Thanks to all the volunteers fulfilling all the various tasks before, during, and after the show. What a great group!

Louise

November Workshop

Many thanks to Kathy for leading us in a fun morning of origami and postcard painting in preparation for our participation with San Diego Floral (“Festival of Trees”) in December Nights in Balboa Park on December 1 and 2. Kathy has more than 100 postcards and 50 origami cranes ready to decorate the FOS trees. A few of us will travel to Room 101 to decorate the trees on Thursday, November 30th. Thank you to everyone who participated in folding and painting! **Due to December Nights, there is NO Friends of Sumi-e workshop in December.**

January Birthdays

If you celebrate your birthday in January and you are interested in joining in a birthday luncheon, please contact Vic Baker (workwvic@gmail.com).

Open Studio

December 6th from 9AM to Noon is our next OPEN STUDIO date in Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Please consider joining in the artistic camaraderie. If you'd like some one-on-one help, this is the time!

2023/2024 Happenings

- Tuesday Painters generally meet on Tuesday every week, plein air either on-site at 10:00am(ish)-noon somewhere in the County, or a ZOOM session. ZOOM starts at 12:30 pm. Watch for weekly email notices.

- Open Studio the 1st Wednesday of the month from 9:00am to noon, Room 104. Bring your art materials and inspiration and join fellow/sister artists for a morning of sharing and painting inspiration. Lots of camaraderie and no rules!
- Monthly Workshop the first Saturday of the month from 9:00am to noon, Room 104.
- Participation in December Nights through a cooperative event with San Diego Floral – Festival of Trees!
- Happy New Year!
- Shinnenkai February 3rd in Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park – watch for more information.
- Annual Spring Exhibition March 23-24 – watch for more information.

Upcoming Workshops & Society Events/Activities

December: We're dark due to December Nights, enjoy the Holiday season with your family and friends.

January: 1/6/2024

February: 2/3/2024 Shinnenkai

March: 3/2/2024 Three-ring circus in preparation for the Spring Exhibition – stretching, matting and framing demonstrations and assistance will be provided at this workshop. Bring your artwork and supplies. **MARCH 23-24 21st ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION**

April: 4/6/2024

May: 5/4/2024

June: 6/1/2024

July: 7/6/2024

August: 8/3/2024

September: Annual Gathering

October: 10/5/2024

November: 11/2/2024 **NOVEMBER 21-22 49th ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION**

December: DARK



I was rummaging through my studio bookshelf and came across a book about how to be a correct guest at a Japanese Tea Ceremony which was in one of the estates our Society received in the past few years. It was interesting but I had no need to keep it and I immediately thought of Cynthia Stribling, our member who is a Tea Ceremony Sensei and has shared her expertise for many years at our Friends of TakaSumi-e Spring Art Exhibition. This is her reply. I thought you might enjoy her insight. - Gaye

Dear Gaye – What a charming gift from you to find in my mailbox when we got home from our latest trip! Thanks so much for thinking of me. All the comments and directions in this book are very well written and would indeed be helpful to my English-speaking friends and students. Nice illustrations and definitions as well. Also, this book is very interesting for more reasons than are apparent on the surface.

1. There are several tea schools in Japan, but the two oldest and most traditional ones are Omote Senke (Front Door) and Ura Senke (Back Door), dating from the 1580's and headed up by the descendants of two brothers who were the sons of Rikyu and split the house between them when he died. Ura Senke is very popular, and actively recruits students starting in high schools, provides publications in English and has several chapters in America. Omote Senke is more formal and reserved, never publishes in English, has only a few American chapters (mostly on the west coast) and kind of has the attitude that you must discover them, as I did, by "knowing someone who knows someone." Imagine my surprise when I saw that the tea group that produced this little book in English were of the Omote Senke school. (Takashi and I are both Omote Senke, and as a non-Japanese Omote Senke professor in America, I am a rare bird.)
2. Once I looked even more closely at the book, I saw that the ladies who put the book together are based in Hiroshima, where my tea sensei, Misao Kawasaki was born and raised. After immigrating to America with her husband in the 1920s, the couple opened a grocery store on Market Street in San Diego and were founders of the Buddhist Temple on Market. Sensei took her two children to Japan in the late 1930's because she wanted them to have a Japanese education, leaving her husband to run the store. Caught in Japan when the war started, my sensei and her daughter only escaped being in her hometown when Hiroshima was bombed because her son had been conscripted into the Japanese navy (even though born an American citizen). She and her daughter moved to Tokyo/Yokohama area to be able to visit him when he was in port. He died on the battleship Yamato. After the war ended, they finally managed to return to America in the early 1950s. The lady who headed up publishing the book was the wife of the Director of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission, a joint radiation research institute between the U.S. and Japan which is headquartered in Hiroshima.

I will enjoy this little treasure and think of you each time I look at it. Best regards, Cynthia



More Pictures from The Show



