

SOGETSU IKEBANA QUEENSLAND INC.

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Newsletter August 2023

Editor Amanda Terblanche



SOGETSU IKEBANA QUEENSLAND INC.

Our Journey past present future

Celebrating 60 years of Ikebana in Queensland

Director's Message - Wendy Hoskin

It's been a busy few months and there is more to come! We are looking forward to our celebratory event at GOMA on 24 August, followed by our annual exhibition on 26 and 27 August 2023. Details for the exhibition are on the flyer.



My thanks to the following team overseeing all aspects of the Annual Exhibition 2023:

Chair - Wendy Hoskin
Supervising Exhibition Curator - Pat Mackie
Exhibition Curator - Sue Poole
Assistant Exhibition Curator - Riana Holliday
Trade Table Convenor - Masako Morrison
Workshops, Demonstrations & Tours Convenor - Chieko Klerkx
Media & Communications - Catherine Purdon
Reception Coordinator - Sallyanne Scott
Refreshments Convenor - Ingrid Kivikoski



SOGETSU IKEBANA QUEENSLAND INC.

Our Journey past present future

Celebrating 60 years of Ikebana in Queensland

The Director and Members of Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc. have pleasure in announcing their annual exhibition of Ikebana - the Japanese art of flower arranging.

Where

Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha
Auditorium
Mt Coot-tha Road, Toowong, Brisbane.

When

Saturday 26 August 10am-4pm
Sunday 27 August 10am-4pm

The exhibition will be opened by
Deputy Consul-General of Japan Ms Masuda
Chieko on Saturday 26 August at 10:15am.

- Admission \$5
- Free Ikebana demonstration 10:30am daily
- Guided tours of the exhibition 11:30am and 2:30pm daily
- Hands-on workshops at 1:30pm daily (\$10)
- Refreshments available
- Ikebana containers and related materials available for purchase from 11:30am

For more information please contact The Secretary on 0434 364 910



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We are expecting about 120 people at the **60th Celebration at GOMA**. The Consul-General for Japan, Mr Gomakubo Junji, Deputy Consul-General Masuda Chieko and our Patron, John Massey will join members, family and friends to celebrate 60 years of Ikebana in Queensland.

Pat Mackie (Riji) will design an arrangement to welcome guests and Vernisher Wooh (Riji) will develop an arrangement on the stage of Cinema A prior to the ikebana streaming demonstration by Master Instructor Nakamura Sozan from Japan. This will be followed by a party at the GOMA Bistro.

Special display of sculpture “Eternity” by Sofu Teshigahara at QAG Entrance

The 1st Iemoto of Sogetsu Ikebana, Mr Sofu Teshigahara donated one of his sculptures when he visited Brisbane in 1967 and through the Japanese Consul for Queensland (1969), Mr T. Hongo, QAG acquired the sculpture. Titled Eternity, it is a large sculpture of wood, clad with brass.

In acknowledgement of our ongoing close links with the Gallery, curators have agreed to display this sculpture in the Gibson Foyer of QAG from 23 to 30 August 2023. This is a very special addition to our 60th celebrations for which we are very grateful. It will be displayed alongside our regular weekly Ikebana arrangement, so please make the time to view it, if possible.



Sculpture *Eternity* by Sofu Teshigahara
Image courtesy of QAGOMA

Annual 2-day Workshop held in June 2023

What a wonderful two days! Christopher James, Riji and Director of Ikebana Victoria was so generous with his time and expertise. I was fortunate to assist him with the collection of material and containers. All the material for his demonstrations came from our garden and that of my brother. Christopher certainly lived up to his blog title, “Roadside Ikebana”. Do have a look at his blog.

Warm regards

Wendy

Our journey past, present, and future exhibitions – Celebrating 60 years

- written by Sue Poole

(Quotes in the article come from *Under the Grass Moon*)

No limits

The Sogetsu school believes *“in an ikebana with no limits, in which anything may be used and displayed anywhere and in any circumstances. There are so many countries on this earth, with different races, different climates and customs. Flowers and trees change, too, as we move from north to south, from temperate to tropical regions, but this is not a barrier for Sogetsu Ikebana.”* I have experienced this when in Japan and in New York when I have attended ikebana classes.

Never before has this been so evident as in the arrangements produced at our 2022 exhibition. Over the time that I have been involved in ikebana, I have seen a shift in the use of more sculptural work. Members are observing materials more closely and making the most of what they use.

Observation of nature

Norman Sparnon said

“Ikebana is an awareness of nature resulting in an adventure with nature while trying to meet the challenge of nature.”

“Ikebana is a serious study and must be approached in the same manner as the study of any other form of Art, however, the new ‘awareness of nature’ which you will experience will enrich your entire life.”

Not only does Ikebana enrich the lives of the ikebanists, I believe that those who attend each and every exhibition are enriched as they look at the arrangements on display.

Open Minds

A very positive aspect of Sogetsu is that we have a lot of open-minded members who are prepared to try new and exciting things. In the last year, our group has begun to place arrangements in HOTA on the Gold Coast. We have completed arrangements for dinners in the Queensland Art Gallery and GOMA. To be able to do this, members must understand materials, negotiate with members of the public to provide what they want in a way that is achievable under our art form. What a joy when it all comes together.

Moving on

As we turn our eyes to the future, we need to remember that in our art form, we are not to be timid. We are not limited. As we celebrate our 60th year of ikebana in Queensland, the exhibition in 2023 will be exquisite and will be enjoyed by many.

Socially, as we spend this year celebrating this great milestone, our members will enjoy each other's company on many occasions and it will also be a year getting to know each other better, getting to know our art better and growing our organisation. *Let us above all celebrate years of friendship through flowers.*

**Workshop on “Composing with branches”
held 6 May 2023, presented by Vernisher Wooh
- written by Nicole Dorner-Scales**

I loved it. It was very different to the workshops of the same name I have attended in the past at Pat's and at H/O in Tokyo. The points of difference were:

- We used screws, not nails or wire; also
- We used a combination of dry and fresh branches (without leaves); and
- We used a glass vase of sorts for the fresh arrangement to enhance the shape of the branch construction.

The emphasis was that the fresh arrangement had to be fairly simple in glass, as the stems are visible, especially if using clear glass.



Vernisher demonstrating



Nicole, Masako &
Catherine



Allison, Christina, Ikuko,
Michelle & Masako



Arrangement by Vernisher Wooh

**Annual 2-day workshop held on 9 & 10 June 2023
presented by Christopher James (Riji)**

- written by presenter Christopher James

The four workshops were well attended. We covered four diverse topics:

- Incorporating the area around the vase;
- Emphasising water in a suiban and including a stone;
- Making a structure using dowels to fix the elements together: and
- An ikebana using three vessels that do not match.

Each of these was challenging in its own way.

For me as the presenter, it was great to see the variety of ways the members approached each topic.

The participants were open to learning new ideas and techniques. At times this included re-thinking their initial approach to the topic, when alternative approaches were put forward and when it was clear that the materials had their own limitations.

As a teacher I find it satisfying when workshop participants are open to thinking about their ikebana from a different perspective and sometimes being prepared to change course even after they have started creating their work.



Christopher James demonstrating



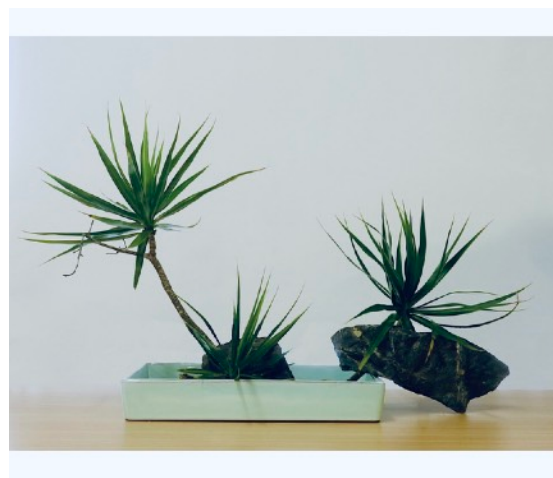
Christopher demonstrated
“incorporating the space around
the vase”



Making a structure using
dowels to fix the elements
together



Christopher “made an
ikebana using 3 vessels
that do not match”



Christopher emphasised water in a
suiban, including a stone

Annual 2-day workshop presented by Christopher James

- written by participant Carolyn Sandercoe

Over 2 days and 4 sessions Christopher had prepared 4 subjects that would stretch our skills and imagination of our ikebana practice.

The subject I found most challenging was using a stone in the arrangement. I was somewhat puzzled with how to interpret "stone". I selected fairly small stones and chose a large open moribana kake that might allow reflections of the material. I chose beautiful sprays of Montanoa, giving me the last opportunity to pick something from my dear Mum and Dad's garden before their house was settled.

We all paid careful attention to Christopher's demonstration. He used 2 blue metal rocks and some green Dracena stems and moribana kake. It was very smart and kept simple.



Carolyn, Christopher & John

Then I turned to my materials and soon found myself in a mess...! Mistake 1: I needed a rock, not a pebble/stone. Outside the hall there was a rocky mulch ... and I found just the right rock. Mistake 2: Attempting to arrange Montanoa as self supporting was just not working harmoniously. At this point Christopher came by and suggested I take everything out - good move. After examining the materials he suggested I just use 3 flowers floating on the water surface. Well, what a difference. I was so happy with the outcome. Two serendipitous touches revealed dark moisture climbing up the dry rock, emphasised the water and the flowers moving around on top of the water, giving literal movement through time.

Thank you Christopher for your expert guidance.



Ann created an ikebana using 3 vessels that do not match



Back row: Catherine, Christina, Phoebe, John, Chris, Helen.
Middle row: Gillian, Allison, Chieko, Wendy, Belinda Lee, Julie.
Front: Fay, Karin, Ann, Christopher (presenter), Carolyn and Sallyanne

Ikebana in our community

- written by Pat Mackie

The **Logan VIEW club** contacted me to be the guest speaker at their monthly lunch meeting at the Diggers Club, Logan Central. Not an ideal space for a demonstration but the 70 members were very interested and appreciative.

VIEW stands for the Voice, interests and Education of Women. VIEW is a leading woman's national volunteer organisation, providing the opportunity for women from all walks of life to meet regularly and establish lasting friendships and help disadvantaged Australian children through supporting the work of the children's charity "Smith Family."



Pat demonstrated ikebana at Logan VIEW club

Love of ikebana ... and the journey of learning... congratulations



2nd Certificate Sankyu
Teacher Amanda Terblanche
& Riana Holliday



4th Certificate Ikkyu
Teacher Vernisher Wooh &
Allison Whiting



Riji promotion
Vernisher Wooh

Vernisher Wooh promoted to RIJI - Congratulations

- compiled by Amanda Terblanche

We are delighted to have another Riji-qualified teacher right here in Brisbane, with Vernisher Wooh being promoted in March 2023. Vernisher replied to several questions relating to her journey.

Question: How did Sogetsu ikebana begin for you?

Vernisher: My first teacher was Mary-Jane Ramsden. I began in the year 2000. My classmates were Fran Savill, John Baxter, Pat Mackie, Rosalie Turk, Judith McCulloch, P.K. Loo, Pauline Jiang, Shirley Beham, Wen Chun Li, Margaret Kortbeek, Wendy Molloy, and Del Blackburn.

- Question: Can you remember when you received your 1st certificate?
 Vernisher: Actually, I didn't intend to apply for certificates. Although I commenced in 2000, it was only in 2006, when Mary-Jane encouraged me to apply for certificates, that I did, and received Certificates 1 to 4th Grade teacher.
- Question: When and how did you fall in love with ikebana?
 Vernisher: When I was aged 35, my journey and love for Sogetsu ikebana took off; and that was after I initially did ikenobo.
- Question: Which teachers - over the years - helped you?
 Vernisher: After my first teacher, Mary-Jane left, Pat Mackie helped me over the years, until I was awarded the Mary and Norman Sparnon Scholarship in 2018. From 2009 I began attending Iemoto classes, workshops for teachers and seminars at Japan HQ.
- Question: When did you begin teaching?
 Vernisher: 2010
- Question: Who was your first student(s)?
 Vernisher: Teresa Lu

Editor Amanda Terblanche and Ikuko Okada talking about Vernisher Wooh's Riji promotion

- Amanda: Ikuko, what are your thoughts about Vernisher becoming a Riji?
 Ikuko: I'm so happy and thrilled for Vernisher receiving a RIJI certificate. She deserves it.
- Amanda: How did you experience learning under Vernisher's guidance?
 Ikuko: There's always something new to discover in her lessons. Sometimes her one-touch essence shows a totally different face of an arrangement. Her continuous passion, skills and efforts towards Ikebana are what keeps us going and growing.

Coming events

24 August 2023 60th Celebration !!!
Online Ikebana Streaming Demonstration by Master Instructor Nakamura Sozan in GOMA CINEMA; followed by a Celebration Party in GOMA BISTRO

26 & 27 August 2023
Annual Sogetsu Ikebana Exhibition
at Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha Auditorium



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