

Hijiri Ikenobo



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The Japanese Art of Flower Arranging

The history of Hijiri Ikenobo

The Hijiri Ikenobo School was founded in 1979 by the current Head Mistress Gyokusei Okazawa. The late Ikebana research scholar/professor Mr. Masanobu Kudoh, greatly encouraged her to start this school.



The essence of Ikebana is to arrange floral materials, according to their character, in a container, and in a limited space, drawing out their beauty. A single or fixed style is not the objective of Ikebana. After much study and experimentation, Ikebana's predecessors had elaborated the

specific style(s) which express the most beautiful form of arrangements. Senei Ikenobo established the Ikenobo school in the 15th century and more explicitly defined the form.

The foundation and essence of the Hijiri Ikenobo School is the pursuit of this original Ikebana form, blending the traditional upright style (*Tachiike* or *Shoka*) with the modern free style (*Jiyu-bana*), emphasizing harmony, and targeting the complete balance and total composition of IKEBANA

Three steps to pursue Ikebana:

SHU, 守 (to follow, keep):

A beginner should study and strictly follow the original style.

HA, 破 (to break):

A trained person should depart from the original style and create their own style.

RI, 離 (to leave, separate):

An expert will understand the essence of Ikebana mentally and physically without needing to stick to the original style.

In the process of pursuing Ikebana it is very important to practice the Ikebana fundamentals thoroughly and constantly.

岡澤玉聖、聖池坊 家元

Gyokusei Okazawa, Head Mistress
Hijiri Ikenobo School, Tokyo Japan

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*Yasuko Spence has been teaching Ikebana since 1994.
She is master teacher of Japanese Calligraphy and
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