

We believe anyone can enjoy Sogetsu Ikebana anytime, at anywhere, using any material



Art Ark Gallery

September 22, 2024, San Jose

Exhibition “Spirit of Japan: Then and Now”

IKEBANA DEMONSTRATION “FLOWER SPIRIT”



Kika Shibata Sensei, Sogetsu San Jose–South Bay Branch Director, and her team of branch members were invited by Peter Thoeny, photographer, artist and explorer of Japan, to collaborate at his exhibition *Spirit of Japan* which took place on September 22 at Art Ark Gallery in San Jose. The idea of the exhibition was to illustrate Peter’s genre pictures of Japan by Ikebana live demonstration. The name of this demonstration was *Flower Spirit*. All flower arrangements were made in the Ikebana Sogetsu style.



Kika Sensei started taking Ikebana classes at the early age of 4 in the city of Kumamoto, Japan. In 1989 she deserved the prestigious title of Riji, the highest degree offered by Sogetsu school led by headmaster Hiroshi Teshigahara. She was appointed by the headmaster the Sogetsu West Coast Regional Director of North America.

Peter Thoeny ever since his teenage years loved to immerse himself in foreign cultures. One day Peter made a decision to quit his job in Switzerland and to move to Japan. Everything was new and unfamiliar. Living in Japan he understood that harmony was the cornerstone of Japanese society. Now Peter lives in Silicon Valley, he is an instructor at Digital Photo Academy teaching creative composition in San Francisco Bay Area.

Ikebana show at Art Ark Gallery in San Jose

The participants of the Ikebana Sogetsu show: (from left to right) *Pat KiAi Medeiros, Olga KiKo Makedontseva, Yuko Watanabe, Sutthisri BiSu Watson, Ayako Yamamura, Masumi Kinune Ishikawa, Hanh Tran, Yasmin Kido Spiegel, Cindy Kiraku Ting, Judy Kian Ting, Katuko Thielke, Kika Shibata*

