



IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL

San Diego Chapter #119
www.ikebanasandiego.org

February 1, 2026



A plum scented wind	<i>ume no kaze</i>
In the land of haikai	<i>haikai koko ni</i>
Blows triumphant	<i>sakan nari</i>
Yamaguchi Sodō (1642-1716)	

Board Meeting– 10AM, February 18, 2026,
via Zoom

General Meeting – February 25, 2026,
Room 101 Balboa Park Casa del Prado



General Meeting February 25 – Yumi Rakers (Sogetsu) will be featured, followed by a card workshop by Judi Bowes.

Join us for this enjoyable and free craft experience that has connections to Japanese materials and techniques. All levels of experience are welcome. You can learn and use a new origami skill or make a "collage" card of your own design. All supplies are provided. You can bring your own scissors but it's not necessary. A few spots are still available. To register, email (judithLbowes@gmail.com) or text (619-804-3987) Judi Bowes to register.



Spring Flower Exhibition March 7-8 Wabi Chapter of the Ohara School of Ikebana - Room 101 Balboa Park Casa del Prado, 10:30am-3:30pm.



Spring Flower Exhibition March 21-22 Ikebana International San Diego – Room 101 Balboa Park Casa del Prado. Our theme: "Ikebana Rocks!" This gives the arranger a challenge to incorporate a stone/rock into the arrangement or use a container that has a rock-like texture or the resemblance to a rock. (More on this subject in the March Newsletter.)

FREE ADMISSION





"IKEBANA ROCKS"

58TH ANNUAL SPRING SHOW
MARCH 21 & 22, 2026
10 AM - 4:30 PM
CASA DEL PRADO, ROOM 101
BALBOA PARK



ikebanasandiego.org

Ikebana Flower Displays
Daily Demonstrations
Sale of Ikebana-related Items



San Diego Museum of Art – Art Alive April 24-26 - The 2026 event draws inspiration from the

Museum's Centennial exhibition featuring its renowned collection of works by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. <https://www.sdmart.org/artalive/>



Report on General Meeting January 28 –

Grand Master Akiko Bourland (Ohara) featured three delightful arrangements along with helpful instruction.



[From left to right] Pui Lan Ng, Nakaba Emtesali, Akiko Bourland, Mitsuko Takeya



Rose Tyson, Carole Scott, and Ginger Truschke hosted a table with information on how to repair small problems with containers (hairline cracks, chips, and water leaks).



Report on An Introduction to Ikebana Outreach Event – January 21 –

We hosted 12 guests who were interested in learning about ikebana. Cecilia made instructive comments throughout a slide show which touched on the history and characteristics of our different schools and teachers. Three guests are now our Starter Members!



Japanese Friendship Garden & Museum

Tokonoma photos from January: Please contact Debbie Warriner at dswarriner.sd@gmail.com for information.

<https://www.niwa.org/>

<https://www.ikebanasandiego.org/gallery#tokonoma-arrangers>

Feb. 5-8: Winnie Davis

Feb. 12-15: Pui Ng

Feb. 19-22: Jeff Fine

Feb. 26-Mar. 1: Mitsuko Takeya



Cecilia Carrick



Sharon Bristow




Rose Mizrahi



Pui Lan Ng



Ginger Truschke

 **From the Editor** – If you have announcements or suggestions for the next newsletter, please email me at gingert@san.rr.com



Visit our Website and Social Pages –

<https://www.ikebanasandiego.org/> - Remember to check the Members Only section for updates.

Contact JLVONH@gmail.com for password



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Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/sandiegoikebana/>



<https://youtube.com/@ikebanainternationalsandiego>



The Essential Tool for Ikebana: Hasami (Scissors)

Ikebana, the ancient Japanese art of flower arrangement, is a practice steeped in tradition, mindfulness, and aesthetic beauty. Among the various tools essential to this art, one stands out for its precision and importance: the *Hasami*, or scissors. These specially designed scissors are not just tools but extensions of the artist's hands, allowing the creation of stunning arrangements that embody the harmony between nature and humanity.



The Origin of Hasami

The *Hasami*, used in Ikebana, have a rich history that dates back to the Edo period (1603-1868). Unlike typical household scissors, Ikebana *Hasami* are crafted to provide a clean, precise cut that helps maintain the health and longevity of the flowers and branches. These scissors are often forged by skilled artisans who apply traditional Japanese techniques, ensuring each pair is a work of art in itself.

Characteristics of Ikebana Hasami

Ikebana *Hasami* are distinct in their design and functionality:

- **Blade Design:** The blades are typically shorter and more robust than regular scissors, allowing for a clean cut through thick branches and delicate stems alike.
- **Handles:** The handles are usually longer, providing better leverage and control, which is crucial for making precise cuts in Ikebana.
- **Materials:** High-quality steel is often used in crafting *Hasami*, ensuring durability and sharpness. Some

traditional *Hasami* are also made with a blend of different metals, a technique that dates back to samurai sword-making.

Caring for Your Hasami

To ensure your *Hasami* serve you well and last for generations, proper care is essential. Here are some tips to maintain your Ikebana scissors:

Clean After Each Use

- **Clean:** Wipe the blades with a soft cloth to remove any sap or residue. This prevents rusting and keeps the blades sharp.
- **Sharpen Regularly:** Regular sharpening is key to maintaining the effectiveness of your *Hasami*. You can use a whetstone or take them to a professional sharpener familiar with traditional Japanese tools.
- **Oil the Blades:** Occasionally, apply a light coat of oil to the blades to prevent rust and ensure smooth cutting. Use a clean, soft cloth to apply the oil evenly.
- **Store Properly:** Keep your *Hasami* in a dry place, ideally in a protective case, to prevent damage and rust. Avoid leaving them in damp areas where they could corrode.
- **Handle with Care:** Use your *Hasami* only for Ikebana. Avoid using them on materials like wire or hard plastics that could damage the blades.

The Art of Using Hasami

Mastering the use of *Hasami* is part of becoming proficient in Ikebana. Here are a few tips to get you started:

- **Precision:** Focus on making precise cuts. This not only helps in creating the desired aesthetic but also ensures the plant material remains healthy and lasts longer.
- **Angle of Cutting:** When cutting stems, aim for a diagonal cut. This increases the surface area for water absorption, helping the flowers stay fresh longer.
- **Control:** Practice controlling the pressure you apply with the *Hasami*. Too much force can crush the stems, while too little might not give a clean cut.

Conclusion

The *Hasami* are more than just scissors; they are an embodiment of the Ikebana artist's skill and care. By understanding their history, characteristics, and how to properly care for them, you can enhance your Ikebana practice and honor the traditions that have been passed down through generations. Treat your *Hasami* with respect, and they will serve you faithfully in your journey to create beauty through the art of Ikebana.

Joe Rotella

Ohara School of Ikebana



Central Ohio
Ohara Ikebana