

SO YOU WANT TO DISPLAY AN ARRANGEMENT AT A SAN DIEGO IKEBANA
INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER #119 SHOWCASE/EXHIBITION EVENT?

CONGRATULATIONS!

HERE ARE SOME GUIDELINES TO KEEP IN MIND

BEFORE THE EVENT

1. Determine if you are eligible to display an arrangement at the event, talk to your Sensei to find out if you are ready, and then, if you have your Sensei's "blessing," sign-up to participate!

Pro Tip: San Diego Ikebana International (SD I.I.) uses the following terms – Showcase and Exhibition– when referring to an event involving the public display of ikebana arrangements. (Other organizations may use different terminology). SD I. I. sponsors three showcases: The "Teachers Showcase" is open only to members with Instructor-Level or above certificates. The "Holiday Showcase" and "Ikebana Day" showcases are open to members at any level.

The Annual Spring Show held in March is typically called an exhibition, and is also open to practitioners and students of all levels.

If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact the committee chair(s).

2. Find out whether the Showcase/Exhibition has a theme (i.e. a season, like Spring, winter holiday, etc.), or other general requirements (specific type of flower, material, color-story, etc.). Learn how the arrangements will be displayed (against a wall or backdrop? On pedestals?) Consider the time of year (what floral materials will be available) and the length of the show (will the arrangement be on display for a few hours or a few days?).

3. Talk again to your *Sensei*! Your instructor can help mentor you through this process. Discuss the theme and guidelines, date of the event, and any other constraints (size of venue tables/display areas or challenges related to transport, for instance). You may want to discuss whether you are going to display a curricular assignment or an original (free-style) arrangement. Find out if your *Sensei* has a specific request of or suggestion for you.

4. Plan and create a practice-version or "rough draft" of your arrangement. Obtain feedback from your *Sensei*. Take notes and photos and/or make a sketch.

Pro Tip: Choose a container and arrangement style with which you are comfortable.

5. Gather all your floral materials and process your materials: Remove any damaged or diseased leaves and blossoms. Re-cut stems under water. Don't forget to bring more material than the arrangement actually requires to account for breakage during transport or wilting during the show. Store all stems in water in floral buckets or other stable, water-tight containers.

6. Gather your other supplies: container (label it with your name on the bottom using masking tape) and any needed tools (i.e. *kenzan*, wire, *hasami*, strong garden shears, stapler). You should also have plastic sheeting, small towels, a bottle or watering can for water, and a small whisk broom.

Pro Tip: Make a checklist. Use a wagon to bring materials from your vehicle to the exhibition space (there are some available in the Room 101 storage closet). Make sure you know the names of the plants you are using so that you can complete the exhibitor card.

EXHIBITION SET-UP DAY

1. Arrive at the venue on-time and ready to build your arrangement. There is often a deadline for finishing as well as a start time, so be aware of the time constraints. During Showcases, plan to complete your arrangement between 9:00 and 10 :00 am, before the start of the SD II General Meeting.

2. Find out from the exhibit organizers if you are assigned a specific display space. The assigned location must not be changed unless you get permission from a committee chair.

Pro tip: Be aware that exhibitions are often arranged according to rank. Master teachers, demonstrators, and study group leaders often have featured exhibit spaces. The exhibit organizers may move your arrangement to create a better balance within the overall exhibition.

3. Spread plastic sheeting over your display space to protect the tablecloth before starting to work. Be respectful of other arrangers. Do not encroach on adjacent arrangement display spaces.
4. Clean up the area around the arrangement (use the whisk broom or a lint roller). Have your *Sensei* go over any notes. Finalize your arrangement and complete the exhibitor card.

Pro Tip: If you have any questions or concerns, ask your Sensei (if available) or exhibition organizers.

DURING THE SHOW

1. Note that you will not be allowed to check your work while the exhibition is open to the public, so plan to refresh your arrangement before or after the exhibition's public opening hours. Check water levels and replace any wilting floral materials.
2. Enjoy the experience! Brings friends and/or family to see your work!

Pro Tip: Observe other arrangements, take photos and/or make notes. Think about the materials used, the form, the structure. What might you learn from the other arrangements on display?

EXHIBITION BREAK-DOWN

1. Arrive promptly on the break-down day. Dismantle your arrangement. You may dispose of your floral materials at the venue or take them home. Carefully empty all containers of water. Please clean your display space of all items and debris.
2. Assist where needed with storing tables, chairs, and backing screens; taking tablecloths home to wash; sweeping the floor, etc. Help put the room back together and return it to the default set-up.