

Margy Metzler, Sensei

Head of School USA, Kado Sensyo Ikenobo | Nihon-Sokatoku | NCAR Regional Advocate for Sensei Development | Author | Educator | Curriculum Developer

Professional Profile

Margy Metzler is an internationally recognized Ikebana Sensei, educator, author, and curriculum developer with over 30 years of dedicated study, teaching, and leadership in the traditional Japanese arts. She is devoted to the preservation, transmission, and advancement of Kado Sensyo Ikenobo throughout North America. After beginning her formal studies in Okinawa, Japan under Sensei Keiko Nakajima Robbins, Margy continued years of disciplined training and earned Nihon-Sokatoku, the highest-ranking Sensei designation in her school in North America. Today, she serves as Head of School USA for Kado Sensyo Ikenobo and as an NCAR Regional Advocate for Sensei Development, supporting the mentorship, development, and advancement of future Sensei and educational leaders in Ikebana.

Her work extends beyond traditional instruction into educational leadership, curriculum development, teacher training, cultural programming, and interdisciplinary artistic collaboration. Her long-term focus is strengthening the future of Ikebana education in North America through curriculum development, Sensei mentorship, educational publishing, and the cultivation of sustainable learning communities.

Education & Lineage

Margy's educational foundation is rooted in decades of disciplined study, artistic practice, and cultural immersion. Through more than three decades of dedication to Ikebana, she has cultivated a teaching philosophy that balances technical mastery with artistic sensitivity, cultural understanding, and lifelong learning. As Head of School USA, she is committed not only to preserving the traditions of Kado Sensyo Ikenobo but also to ensuring their continued relevance and vitality through thoughtful education, mentorship, and leadership development.

Japanese Tea Ceremony Studies

In addition to her extensive studies in Ikebana, Margy has trained in the Urasenke tradition of Japanese Tea Ceremony (Chado), one of the most respected tea lineages in Japan. Her study of tea has deepened her understanding of Japanese aesthetics, seasonality, hospitality, mindfulness, and the principles of harmony (wa), respect (kei), purity (sei), and tranquility (jaku) that unite the traditional Japanese arts. This interdisciplinary foundation informs her approach to teaching and mentoring, allowing students to experience Ikebana not only as an artistic discipline but as part of a broader cultural tradition rooted in observation, intention, beauty, and respect for nature.

Author, Curriculum Developer & Educational Publisher

Recognizing the importance of preserving knowledge through education, Margy has devoted significant effort to developing instructional materials that support students, teachers, and future leaders within the art form.

Demonstrations, Workshops & Educational Outreach

Margy's demonstrations, workshops, and educational presentations have been featured nationally and internationally through botanical gardens, cultural institutions, exhibitions, educational programs, and interdisciplinary arts collaborations. She has served as an educator and demonstrator for Naples Botanical Garden, introducing audiences to the beauty, philosophy, and cultural significance of Ikebana while fostering a deeper appreciation for Japanese artistic traditions. Known for her thoughtful and engaging teaching style, Margy has inspired students ranging from beginners to advanced practitioners and future Sensei.

Community Leadership & Artful Arrangements

A passionate advocate for arts education and community engagement, Margy has served as liaison between Ikebana International Naples Chapter #160 and the Naples Art District. Through this role, she helped establish and develop Artful Arrangements, an annual collaborative exhibition pairing Ikebana artists with artists from the Naples Art District.

Through this innovative and enduring program, participating Ikebanists create arrangements inspired by and displayed alongside selected works of art, fostering meaningful dialogue between artistic disciplines and expanding public appreciation for Ikebana as a living art form. Artful Arrangements has become a celebrated annual event that strengthens cultural partnerships, encourages creative collaboration, and enriches the artistic landscape of Southwest Florida.

Scholarship, Recognition & Media Coverage

In 2023, Margy was awarded the inaugural Midori Tanimune Memorial Teaching Scholarship by the Ikebana Iwaya Fund in recognition of her exceptional contributions to Ikebana education, teacher development, and the advancement of traditional Japanese arts in North America. Her work and contributions to Ikebana education have been featured in Gulfshore Life, Florida Weekly, and Naples Daily News.

Legacy & Mentorship

Throughout more than three decades of study and teaching, Margy has remained dedicated to the development of future teachers and leaders within the art form. Her influence extends beyond individual arrangements to the creation of educational pathways, teaching resources, mentorship opportunities, and cultural programs that help ensure the continued growth and vitality of Ikebana for future generations.

Margy continues to teach and mentor through a contemplative and disciplined approach to Ikebana that emphasizes spatial awareness, artistic dialogue, cultural respect, thoughtful observation, and lifelong study. Through her leadership, publications, curriculum development, demonstrations, and mentorship, she is helping shape the next generation of Ikebana educators while preserving the rich traditions and aesthetic values of Japanese culture. Her life's work reflects a commitment not only to artistic excellence, but also to the cultivation of future Sensei, the preservation of cultural heritage, and the continued flourishing of Ikebana as a living art for generations to come.

Selected Publications

- Kado Sensyo Ikenobo Beginner's Textbook (2nd Edition)
- Creating Inside the Bento Box
- The Art of Display
- Intermediate Textbook I (currently in development)
- Siem Reap and the Temples of Angkor: A Journey Through Time

Specialties

- Sensei Development & Mentorship
- Ikebana Instruction & Certification
- Curriculum & Textbook Development
- Educational Leadership
- Japanese Aesthetic Philosophy
- Urasenke Tea Ceremony Traditions
- Public Demonstrations & Cultural Programming
- Artful Arrangements Exhibition Development
- Interdisciplinary Arts Collaboration
- Cultural Preservation & Education
- Kado Sensyo Ikenobo Studies