



FLOATING ISLANDS Ceramic Ikebana Vessels

Traveling Exhibition & Opening Lecture

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WASHINGTON DC, (August 13, 2018) – This fall, the [Japan Information & Culture Center \(JICC\), Embassy of Japan, DC](#), together with Ikebana International, Washington D.C., Chapter No.1, the District Clay Center, and Marymount University, invites you to explore how the beloved Japanese tradition of ikebana (flower arrangement) is being reinterpreted and inherited in the United States at our new collaborative and exquisite exhibition, “Floating Islands: Ceramic Ikebana Vessels.”

Curated by renowned ceramist Akira Satake, this exhibition features ceramic ikebana vessels created by some of the most talented master ceramists working within the U.S. today, several of which have lived and studied in pottery towns in Japan, such as a Bizen, Mashiko, and Shigaraki, where they were able to hone their art and bring back methods of making and firing to the United States. All featured potters, including special guest artist, Japanese Master Potter Ken Matsuzaki, share an innate sense of the importance of *ma*, or “negative space,” a concept integral to Japanese aesthetics. Artist statements on display will invite viewers to explore the unique ways each ceramic artist took inspiration from traditional Japanese aesthetics and evolved it to a personal style. Additional exhibition panels will also allow visitors to gain insight into the various traditional techniques of ceramics native to Japan, as well as the principles standard to the schools of Ikebana. For opening night and the first exhibition week, three Ikebana Artists from Washington, D.C. Chapter No.1 of Ikebana International will exhibit arrangements inspired by and featuring three of the exhibited vessels.

In the history of Ikebana practice, there has always been the search for and appreciation of new styles of vessels to bring a breath of fresh air and new inspiration to ikebana practitioners. This exhibition expounds on that dynamic, challenging both the potters and the Ikebana artists to honor the traditions of the Ikebana schools while collaborating on the new directions of creative expression to enhance the future of the exquisite marriage of ceramics and flower arrangement. - Akira Satake, Curator

The “Floating Islands: Ceramic Ikebana Vessels” exhibition will open on Friday, August 24th at the JICC with a special lecture, demonstration, and performance with show curator Akira Satake and distinguished Ikebana artist, Sheila Advani. On September 29th, the show will then move to the District Clay Center gallery. The show is the largest collection of ceramic ikebana vessels by American artists in over a decade.

To register for any of these events, please visit: <http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jicc/events.html>

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