

A Spring Afternoon of Flowers and Tea at Art in Bloom in Black Mountain

The Black Mountain Center for the Arts is celebrating its 3rd annual Art in Bloom, an art and flowers show, from June 18-21. In addition to the art show with accompanying floral interpretation by both Ikebana and traditional floral designers, a different event is planned each day. The Friday, June 19, daytime event is an Ikenobo Ikebana demonstration by Emiko Nishiwaki, with commentary by Terri Ellis Todd. Scheduled at 2 pm, attendees will be treated to afternoon tea; locally crafted pottery tea sets by the Black Mountain Center for the Arts Clay Studio potters will be available for purchase during the tea.

Ikebana is the art of Japanese flower arranging. Ikenobo is the oldest and largest school of Ikebana in Japan. Sensei Ikenobo, the forty-fifth generation Ikenobo Headmaster of the Ikenobo school, states, "Like a poem or painting made with flowers, Ikenobo's Ikebana expresses both the beauty of flowers and the beauty of longing in our own hearts. Ikenobo's spirit has spread not only in Japan, but also throughout the world. It is my deepest hope that the beauty of Ikenobo will increasingly serve as a way of drawing the world's people together." (source: www.ikenobo.jp/english/index)

Emiko Nishiwaki is professor second grade of the Ikenobo School of Ikebana, headquartered in Kyoto, Japan. She taught Ikebana to people of all ages for thirteen years in Japan before she came to western North Carolina in August of 2007.

Nishiwaki began studying Ikebana in 1986 with Master Fujii, in Aichi, Japan. She was allowed to arrange flowers freely for five years before beginning traditional Ikebana lessons. Because of her unconventional training her Ikebana style is unique. She sometimes makes arrangements with unusual flower containers made of aluminum or a ball made from strings.

However, she studied the more traditional advanced Rikka form of Ikebana with a special teacher in Kyoto for a year in 2006. The Rikka style is a formal style with a vertical orientation in a tall, narrow-mouthed vase. Its three branches represent heaven, man, and earth.

Emiko has been working as the Japan Outreach Coordinator at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee since August 2007. The Japan Foundation, an affiliate association of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, supports this Japan Outreach Program. It helps to increase awareness and knowledge of Japanese culture.

Terri Ellis Todd is a certified master in the Ichiyo School of Ikebana, a contemporary school of Japanese flower arranging. She teaches Ikebana lessons according to the curriculum of the Ichiyo School headquartered in Tokyo, Japan.

She received her training from director of the Ichiyo Art Center Executive Master Elaine Jo. Founder and first president of the Asheville Ichiyo Study Group she was appointed founding director of the North Carolina/Georgia Branch of the Ichiyo School by Ichiyo Headmaster Kasuya in November 2006. President of the Asheville Chapter of Ikebana International from 2002-2008, Terri, along with current president Sally Robinson, was largely responsible for bringing Art in Bloom to western NC, working in collaboration with the Black Mountain Center for the Arts.

Tickets for this event are \$25. Black Mountain Center for the Arts is located in the old City Hall at 225 W. State Street. To purchase tickets call 828/669-0930. For more information, visit blackmountainarts.org.



Emiko arranging Ikebana