

MR. HIROKI OHARA

A 25 year-old Ohara School Headmaster who
tries to preserve 400 years of *ikebana* tradition

JAPAN FOUNDATION
NEW YORK 



WORKSHOP ON IKEBANA: THE NE PLUS ULTRA OF JAPANESE EXQUISITENESS

Date: Thursday March 6, 2014

Time: 2:00pm-3:30pm

Place: E-500, LaGuardia Community College

30-10 Thompson Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101

RSVP at <http://bit.ly/lagccEventReg>

What is Ikebana? (from WebJapan web-japan.org)

The history of *ikebana*, sometimes translated as "the Japanese art of flower arrangement", goes back to the 6th century in Japan, when the introduction of Buddhism from China brought about the custom of floral offerings to the Buddha and the souls of one's ancestors. In the last 500 years, the modern ikebana tradition has developed a symbolic language as well as decorative concepts, and the use of natural, ephemeral flowers and branches makes the dimension of time an integral part of the creation. The relationship between the materials, the style of the arrangement, the size, shape, texture, volume, and color of the container, and the place and occasion for its display are all vitally important factors.

The contemporary ikebana scene is dominated by three large schools - Ikenobo, Ohara, and Sogetsu - each claiming over one million members both domestically and overseas. Unshin Ohara (1861–1916), founder of the Ohara school, is credited for its introduction of an extended surface in wide, shallow containers called *suiban*, literary "water basin", on which flowers and plants with various kinds of supports are arranged. The Ohara School broadened the horizon of modern ikebana by allowing the use of new, imported materials that could not be accommodated by traditional styles.

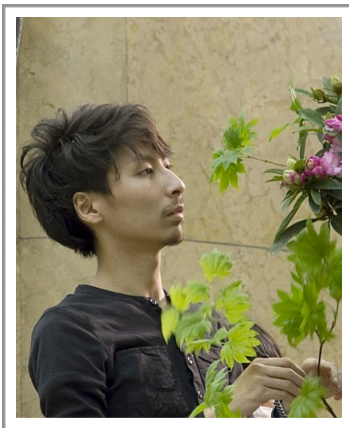


About the Ohara School and Hiroki Ohara

The Ohara School is one of the three largest contemporary ikebana schools - Ikenobo, Ohara, and Sogetsu. The Ohara school has 56 Chapters and 34 Study Groups organized out of 29 countries, including the U.S., as of December 2012.

One of the most important missions of the Ohara School is to recognize the meaning of plant life and appreciate the hope that derives from its rebirth not only through fresh greeneries and beautifully opened large flowers but also through their fading and dying away.

The current headmaster Hiroki Ohara cherishes the



concept of nature, which the founder of his school felt very close to and tried to express in ikebana, and continues the utmost importance of nature in his artistic endeavor.

Mr. Hiroki Ohara's recent works show the expression of nature as it is - the power of plant life, the relationship of plants with nature, and the joy of seasonal change and rebirth of plants. All these elements are particularly evident in his 2012 solo exhibition as well as arrangements with sacred lotus and *kakitsubata* (rabbit-ear iris). At the invitation of the Japanese government, Mr. Hiroki Ohara has given demonstrations last year in New York City and Paris as part of overseas cultural exchange.



Ikebana Workshop at LaGuardia CC

LaGuardia Community College has arranged a visit by Mr. Hiroki Ohara and the other Ikebana Masters of the Ohara School on Thursday March 6, 2014.

The topics of the workshop includes:

- Origin and tradition of *ikebana*
- The Ohara School and its praxes
- The Ohara school ikebana as spatial art
- Exquisiteness in Japan
- Concepts of beauty and value in ikebana
- Spiritual and perpetual traditions in Japanese art

Discussion with Headmaster Hiroki Ohara will follow his workshop.

If you are interested in the workshop, please sign up for it at <http://bit.ly/lagccEventReg>. Seating is limited. If you have questions, please contact Prof. Tomonori Nagano at tnagano@lagcc.cuny.edu or 718-482-5484.

