



Above, "Hope" by Viktoria Ford
Below, shimputai shoka by Nobu Kurashige



Sacred Lotus Ikebana and Art Exhibition July 16 – 18, 2019 10am – 5pm Link Gallery

on the University of Illinois campus,
408 Peabody Drive, Champaign, IL 61820.

Viktoria Ford and Nobu Kurashige along with members of the Illinois Prairie Chapter of the Ikenobo Ikebana Society of America will present a joint exhibition of ikebana (Japanese Flower Arranging) and the art of University of Illinois alum Viktoria Ford. Members will be harvesting Lotus from the Vermilion County Boardwalk near Danville to use in their ikebana along with many other beautiful seasonal flowers. The exhibition is open each day from 10 am to 5 pm when you will be able to view ikebana and Ford's art together. Illinois Prairie Ikenobo members will be actively arranging

Nobu Kurashige

Professor Kurashige has studied and taught Ikenobo Ikebana through out her life and holds the title of *Sokatoku* the highest rank of Ikenobo Ikebana Professor from Kyoto's Ikenobo Kadokai. Kurashige is from Iwakuni City, Japan, which is famous for *hasu* (lotus) fields.

and displaying different ikebana styles each day. See how ikebana is arranged and constructed and hear Professor Kurashige explain the philosophy and techniques of ikebana.

VIKTORIA FORD

Viktoria's work is a reflection of her fascination with nature. A deep and abiding connection with the natural environment developed early in her life growing up in Aledo, Illinois, a small town near the Mississippi River. She learned the value of solitude and the rewards of the creative thought process, spending long hours observing her environment and creatively interacting with its raw materials.

Viktoria lives and has a studio in Urbana, Illinois, where she devotes herself full time to her painting, ceramics and ikebana.

Below, Nobu Kurashige and Illinois Prairie member Chikako Usui cut lotus from the Heron County Park and Boardwalk near Danville Illinois. For more information and how to support please visit <http://www.vccd.org/heron-county-park/>



Exhibition is open to the public and free



rikka isshiki of lotus by Jeanne Holy
sunamono by Nobu Kurashige and Jeanne Holy



shoka isshuike by Nobu Kurashige



Find us on Facebook

Illinois Prairie Chapter – Ikenobo Ikebana

contact Jeanne Holy, president Illinois Prairie Ikenobo
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For more information about Ikenobo
<https://www.ikenobo.jp/english/>

LEARNING THE FLOWER WAY

Ikebana, also known as the flower way (kadō), developed alongside the tea ceremony (chadō) with the introduction of Buddhism to Japan. The Ikenobo school of ikebana began more than 550 years ago, and is still flourishing today.

You have an opportunity to study this ancient and modern art form with the Illinois Prairie Chapter of the Ikenobo Ikebana Society of America. Through the flower way, by carefully observing how plants grow and arranging ikebana, we discover new relationships with nature, others and ourselves.

Prairie Chapter sponsors regular ikebana workshops at the University of Illinois Japan House and also at the homes of instructors. At each workshop a certified Ikenobo instructor will lecture and demonstrate on a specific style. Afterwards participants arrange ikebana, and the instructor critiques each individual arrangement.

Chapter members may enroll in the Ikenobo Ikebana school of flower arranging in Kyoto, Japan, and work towards obtaining beginner through advanced diplomas. Members have an opportunity to attend workshops with visiting professors from Japan, and every three years Kyoto Headquarters sponsors an Ikenobo tour to Japan, including one week of lessons from Senior Professors in Kyoto.

Our membership is diverse: local members and those from out of state; people from different countries and cultures; people of all ages, from university students to retirees. Whether you are new to ikebana or working on an advanced diploma, we welcome you. Join us and learn the flower way.

VIKTORIA FORD

Bio

Viktoria's work is a reflection of her fascination with nature. A deep and abiding connection with the natural environment developed early in her life growing up in Aledo, Illinois, a small town near the Mississippi River. She learned the value of solitude and the rewards of the creative thought process, spending long hours observing her environment and creatively interacting with its raw materials. These experiences formed the foundation of her early aesthetic education.

In 1971, Viktoria was selected for a Rotary International Fellowship Award that allowed her to attend the Kunst øg Håndverk Skole in Oslo, Norway. There she expanded her metals focus into industrial design. She traveled throughout northern Europe, England and Italy discovering the work of the masters and the avant-garde. Upon completing her BFA in Metals in 1973 at the U of IL, Viktoria began exhibiting and winning awards for her work.

In 1980, Viktoria returned to the University of Illinois to nurture her growing interest in drawing and painting and received a second BFA in 1982. She went on to receive the Donald Kuspit Recognition Award at her MFA exhibition at Krannert Art Museum in 1985. During this period she began to show her work in regional, national and international exhibitions.

For ten years Viktoria was an exhibition designer and preparator at Krannert Art Museum. She received an MA in Art Education during that time and taught art at Barkstall Elementary School for thirteen years. The methodologies that she developed for teaching culture through art have been documented and published in international education journals and are being taught to and implemented by a new generation of educators.

Viktoria lives and has a studio in Urbana, Illinois, where she devotes herself full time to her painting, ceramics and ikebana.



“Rivers”



“ $4^{16} = 4,294,967.296$ possibilities “