

Mitsugi Kikuchi

(pen name: Shinran Kikuchi)

Mitsugi Kikuchi was born in Hokkaido, Japan. In his teens, he took Ikebana lessons at the Ikenobo School of Japanese Flower Arrangements, in order to learn good manners. After high school, he moved to Sendai and attended a fine art school to study design and watercolor painting. At the same time, he studied Sumi-e (oriental brush painting) under Mr. Baishun Yamashita (a well-known Sumi-e artist). He also started taking Ikebana lessons at the Ohara School of Japanese Flower Arrangements, Sendai Chapter, under the direction of Mrs Shutei Kikuchi (Ikebana master).

In 1958, he moved to Tokyo to study topographic maps.

From 1959 to 1966, until coming to Canada, he studied Ikebana at the Ohara School of Japanese Flower Arrangements, Tokyo Chapter under Mrs. Shinso Ishii (Ikebana grand master). During the same period, he studied again extensively Sumi-e under Mr. Hideji Susuki (a prominent Sumi-e artist). He also studied Nihon-ga (Japanese painting) and especially Tarashi-komi (drop in techniques) under Mr. Mitsuaki Fukumoto (a prominent artist).

In 1966, he was invited to work for a company in Ottawa to edit topographic maps.

Since coming to Canada in 1966, he has been teaching flower arrangements and Sumi-e in Ottawa, until 1988.

In 1973, he resigned his job (editor of topographic maps) with the regional government in order to devote himself exclusively to work in Sumi-e, Japanese painting, watercolour and oil painting.

Now he paints full time and has toured throughout Canada and the United States, putting on demonstrations of Ikebana. He creates immense flower arrangements for the Japanese Embassy, the National Arts Centre and various hotels.

In 1992, he obtained the sub-grand master's degree from the Ohara School of Japanese Flower Arrangements, headquarters, in Kobe.

Member of Art Lending of Ottawa since 1974

Media - watercolour, oils.