

# Peter Vernon Quenter

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## **Background:**

Eastern ways, with their emphasis on naturalness and simplicity, hold a strong attraction for Peter. His grandfather, a musician, and mother, an artistic potter and painter, instilled in him at a young age a sensitivity to listening and seeing. Growing up in the Yukon, the Swiss Alps, Southern Florida (during a hurricane), Montreal and Cologne, Germany, instilled in Peter the importance of respecting and caring for the natural environment. This led him into a life of sports, the Eastern philosophies of martial arts, holistic health practices, painting, drawing, photography and music. Since 1995, Japanese Ink-Brush Calligraphy has become his main artistic outlet.

## **Artistic Philosophy:**

Much of Peter's brush work is based upon Chinese and Japanese philosophies and culture. The Chinese masters have taught brush work as an expression of Yin and Yang, Tao, Confucius' teachings and Lao-Tse, the understanding of the impermanence and interconnectedness of all things. The simplicity of brush stroke on white paper, of photographing a fleeting moment of life, the insight of a Haiku moment perceived not as an intellectual exercise, but arising naturally from an awareness of things as they are, can reawaken a more appreciative regard for nature, our fellow beings and natural design and beauty.

The following quote of Bashoo Matsuo, 1644 - 1694, is central to Peter's artistic inspiration; *"Putting one's eyes and thoughts on nature is the highest form of civilization"*.

## **Education and Experience:**

1973 - Acceptance to a young-artist show in Cologne, Germany,  
1982 to 1984 - Art studies at the University in Cologne, Germany,  
1990 to present - Holistic health studies, practice, and teaching,  
1995 to present - Student of Sensei Tomoko Kodama in Ottawa; Shodo / Sumi-e,  
1998 - Group exhibition at the Japanese Embassy in Ottawa,  
2002 to present - Teaching workshops in Brush Calligraphy and traditional method of natural-paper backing/mounting and giving courses at the Visual Arts Centre in Orleans; the studio of au Papier Japonais in Montreal, the Yamada Art Studio in Montreal, the; St. Moritz Public Art School, Switzerland and at various private locations,  
2003 and 2005 - Group exhibition at the Visual Arts Centre in Nepean,  
2006 - Group exhibition at "The Green Door" in Ottawa,  
- Design of a logo for 30 year anniversary conference of Haiku Canada,  
2007 - Display of works at various locations in Ottawa and Montreal.

Member of Art Lending of Ottawa since 2007

Medium - ink-brush calligraphy