Ikebana
Just scratching the surface
Russell Bowers, 4th Term Master Ohara School of Ikebana
2016 Version 2, info@oharaschoolma.com
A Brief Look at Ikebana’s History

660BC Shinto Indigenous Religion of Japan

550AD

1445AD Sendensho: 1st Known Book on Ikebana Rules
1460AD Ikenobo develops Ikebana as a formal art under direction of the Imperial Court
1549AD Western Influence and Trade reaches Japan
1480-90AD Higashiyama Art Period
Sado (Tea), Ikebana (Flower Arrangement), Noh (Theater), Pottery, Gardening, Architecture, etc.

1425AD

1425AD Ikebana Viewing Parties

1608AD Confucianism becomes state philosophy

1191AD Tea & Zen are brought back to Japan from China

1587AD ~ 250 years of Isolation from the outside world

1887AD

1887AD Ikebana is a household practice.

1910AD Unshin Ohara establishes the Ohara School of Ikebana

1942-1992AD Natsuki Ohara (4th Headmaster) Develops Hana Isho forms of Ikebana

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Appreciation for Nature. Spiritual and religious significance and ceremony.

**Kuge: Buddhist Offerings**

**Tate Hana: Standing Flowers** developed by Ikenobo. Placed in the Tokonoma alcove.

**Rikka: Standing arrangement.** A microcosm of the entire universe. Became rule bound in style. Fashionable among the aristocracy.

**Nageire: Free Style with no set rules popular with merchant class.**

**Chabana: Flowers for Tea Ceremony.** Simple arrangement of seasonal flowers.

**Bunjin: Literati arrangements (intellectuals who practiced Poetry, Calligraphy, etc)**

**Shoka: Influence by Confucianism. Emphasis on Ten (Heaven), Chi (Earth) & Jin (Human).**

**Moribana: Piled up flowers introduced by Unshin Ohara. In shallow container called a suiban.**
Ohara School of Ikebana

1861-1916
The Founder
Unshin Ohara
Was an artist sculptor and practiced Ikenobo Ikebana. Incorporated western flowers, developed Moribana and founded the Ohara school in 1912.

1880-1939
Second Headmaster
Koun Ohara
Developed clear teaching methods and form classification for Moribana and Heika. Developed techniques to demonstrate in front of large groups of people.

1908-1995
Third Headmaster
Houn Ohara
Known for his numerous demonstrations especially in a post war Japan. Credited with making the Ohara school into an international organization.

1949-1992
Fourth Headmaster
Natsuki Ohara

Present
Fifth Headmaster
Hiroki Ohara
Currently leads the Ohara school with over a million members world wide. He is a prolific and creative artist. Has developed the Hanakanade form of Ikebana.
Appendix

Sources


Links

- Ohara School of Ikebana: www.ohararyu.or.jp/english

- Ohara School of Ikebana Massachusetts (Boston, Cambridge & Worcester): www.oharaschoolma.com

- Contact us: info@oharaschoolma.com