

IKEBANA FLOWER VASES



Introduction:

The word Ikebana is from the Japanese (The literal translation taken from www.japan-zone.com/culture/ikebana.shtml) is *flowers kept alive*) There is a lot more to Ikebana than just the arrangement of flowers as a quick Googling of the word provides upwards of 1500 references to Ikebana. Go to any large bookstore or library and you will discover many tomes providing information on the topic. In Japan and elsewhere around the world there are many schools and organizations teaching Ikebana as it is a very complex way of arranging flowers by creating a harmony of linear construction, rhythm and color. In Japan three of the most popular schools are Ikenobo, Sogestsu, and Ohara. There are different styles of arranging the flowers depending on the school, the vase and the plants used. In the west flower arranging is mostly done for decoration while in the east it is steeped in history. Ikenobo goes back to the school founded by the Buddhist priest Ikenobo Senkei in the 15th century. The following is taken from the history of ikebana found on the web site <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ikebana>: “ Ikebana began as a kind of ritual flower offering made in Buddhist temples in Japan during the sixth century. In these arrangements, both the flowers and the branches were made to point toward heaven as an indication of faith. A more sophisticated style of flower arrangement, called *rikka* (standing flowers), appeared in the fifteenth century. The *rikka* style reflects the magnificence of nature and its display.”