

Aoi Yamaguchi Japanese Calligrapher

Born and raised in Hokkaido, Japan in 1984, Aoi Yamaguchi has been trained to master the basics of calligraphy by learning under the Master Zuiho Sato since at the age of 6, while refining her knowledge and skills. She is a recipient of numerous awards including the First Place prize from the Minister of Education at 44th Asahi Calligraphy Nationwide School Exhibit, Superior First Place at 33rd National Students Calligraphy Exhibition and others that are known as the supreme prizes at competitive public exhibitions. As a noteworthy event, she was nominated to participate in the group, 4th Hokkaido Elementary and Junior High Students Visit to China in 2000, representing the country of Japan and participated in calligraphy exchange sessions at Palace of Pupils of China. Her works show her exploration in juxtaposing the traditional Eastern classics and her contemporary artistic expressions, as well as her unique ambition of transforming two-dimensional art of Japanese Calligraphy into the art of physical expression through performances. In 2008, she initiated a Japanese art crew as known as Surreality in Reality (SIR) based in San Francisco Bay Area, aiming to provide opportunities for local Japanese artists to share their artistic creations internationally. Currently living in Oakland, she has been working on her unique calligraphy installation, exhibition, live performances, custom logo designs and art works globally, as she pursues her career to preserve traditional arts with music in the modern world.

Education

2007 - 2009 Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, Cross-cultural Studies, San Francisco State University
2004 - 2007 Music Industry Studies at Diablo Valley College
2002 Received Title of Master of Student Calligrapher from Hokkaido Association of Japanese Calligraphy
1990 - 2003 Japanese calligraphy study under Zuiho Sato

Solo Exhibitions

2010 還源 KANGEN -Reunited with Nature-, Fivepoints Arthouse, San Francisco, CA
2009 A Dot and A Line, Guerilla Cafe, Berkeley, CA
2008 Solo Exhibition 燿 -Akagari -, Hokusen Gallery Ivory, Sapporo, Hokkaido Japan

Group Exhibitions

2011 Warhol Reimagined: The New Factory, Project One, San Francisco, CA
2010 Bridge is Over, Lopo Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2010 RAW 08.06.10, Uptown, Oakland Art Murmur, Oakland, CA
2010 6th Annual Asian Heritage Street Celebration, Civic Center / Little Saigon, San Francisco, CA
2010 Four Elements vol.4 風 -WIND-, Space Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2010 43rd Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival, Japan Town, San Francisco, CA
2010 Four Elements vol.3 土 -EARTH, Space Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2009 4th Annual Sake Day, Jewish Community Center, San Francisco, CA
2009 Four Elements vol.2 火 -FIRE-, Space Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2009 Bridge, Project One, San Francisco, CA
2009 Future Classic, Poleng Lounge, San Francisco, CA
2009 Beyond Recognition, Space Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2009 Love Sake & Art, Artmeznik, San Francisco, CA
2009 Flying Kite Man, Subterranean Arthouse, San Francisco, CA
2009 Kinokuniya Seasonal Calligraphy Installation, Kinokuniya Bookstore, San Francisco, CA
2009 Four Elements vol.1 水 -WATER, Space Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2009 HELLA LOGOS!!, Space Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2009 International Valentine's Day, G3, San Francisco, CA
2009 Colorless Spectrum, Space Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2008 頁 - page -, Space Gallery, San Francisco
2008 SAI, Space Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2008 Surreality in Reality - 現実の中の非現実 -, Space Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2008 Anything Goes, Dalva, San Francisco, CA

2007 Spring Landscape, Ensoma, San Francisco, CA
2007 One Love, Gallery One, San Francisco, CA
2006 Minimarhythm x Kero One Launch Party, 330 Ritch, San Francisco, CA
2006 Toki - 時 -, Space Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Live Performances

2011 A World Without Words, Bobby McKey's, National Harbor, MD
2011 Together -Love & Lust-, Oasis, Oakland, CA
2010 KANGEN -Reunited with Nature-, Fivepoints Arthouse, San Francisco, CA
2010 Ritmos Sin Fronteras, SOM, San Francisco, CA
2010 Shing02 & Emi Meyer live, Rockit Room, San Francisco, CA
2010 Quadron concert, Mozaic Lounge Hotel Sheraton, San Jose, CA
2010 地跡 CHISEKI -Traces of Nature-, 310 Lounge, New York, NY

2010 Four Elements vol.4 風 -WIND-, Space Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2010 Four Elements vol.3 土 -EARTH, Space Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2009 Invasion, D-Structure, San Francisco, CA
2009 Four Elements vol.2 火 -FIRE-, Space Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2009 Four Elements vol.1 水 -WATER, Space Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2009 Colorless Spectrum, Space Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2008 頁 - page -, Space Gallery, San Francisco
2008 SAI, Space Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2008 Happy Feet, Mighty, San Francisco, CA
2008 Surreality in Reality - 現実の中の非現実 -, Space Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2007 Light and Shadow - 陽と影 -, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA
2007 Wordless Eloquence *07 - 雄弁な沈黙 -, White Rabbit, New York, NY
2007 Spring Landscape, Ensoma, San Francisco, CA
2006 Silence & Motion - 静と動 -, Ensoma, San Francisco, CA
2006 Japanese Month Cultural Festival, Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, CA

Awards

2002 Certificate for An Honor Student from Hokkaido Calligraphy Education Association, Hokkaido Newspaper Corporation
2001 Hokkaido Federation of Japanese Calligraphy Award
2000 Asahi Newspaper Publishing Company Award
2000 First Prize in Japanese National Students' Calligraphy Expo
1999 Title of Master of Student Calligrapher
1999 First Prize from Japanese Minister of Education

Commission

2011 Live custom calligraphy art making for KENZO perfume fair at Bloomingdale's Third Ave, New York, NY
2011 Calligraphy identity for YABE Media, Paris, France
2010 Live custom calligraphy art making for KENZO perfume fair at Bloomingdale's, San Francisco, CA
2010 Ippuku, Berkeley, CA
2010 Cover Art for documentary film "An Eternal Soul", San Francisco, CA
2010 Ramen Dojo, San Mateo, CA
2010 Calligraphy identity for The Drums, New York, NY
2009 Kinokuniya Bookstore Building, San Francisco, CA (Monthly, March 2009-March 2010)
2009 Dohatsuten Ramen & Tapas, Palo Alto, CA
2007 Ozumo Restaurant & Sake Bar, San Francisco, CA

2006 Tennis Team of Health Sciences University of Hokkaido, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan

Other

- 2011 Guest speaker presentation at Smart Design, San Francisco, CA
- 2011 Live art making at Sketch Tuesdays, 111 Minna, San Francisco
- 2011 Lecture / workshop at Burnett Children's Development Center, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 Demonstration at Presidio Teacher's Night, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 Lecture / demonstration at ArtSeed workshop, Sequoias, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 Lecture / demonstration at Japanese Calligraphy workshop, Sycamore Church, Albany, CA

Featured Publications

- SF Weekly*, San Francisco, November 2010
- [X] Press Magazine*, San Francisco State University, April 2009
- KINARI*, Tokyo, November 2008
- FIL*, Sapporo, August 2008
- Hokubei Mainichi Newspaper*, San Francisco, June 2008
- BaySpa*, San Francisco, December 2006