

# MIDORI KONO THIEL

Japanese Arts Specialist

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## Personal Milestones:

- Born in Berkeley, California in 1933; childhood education in Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii
- Married Philip Thiel, 1955
- Four children: Kenji, 1955; Tamiko, 1957; Kiko, 1962 and Peter, 1969 (deceased)
- Overseas residences in Kamakura, Japan 1960-61 and 1967-68; Tokyo, Japan 1976-77; and Arhus, Denmark 1970
- Listed in "Asian American Art: A History, 1850-1970," Gordon H. Chang, Senior Editor, Stanford University Press, 2008
- Recipient of a special recognition award from the Consul General of Japan, for her long-term contributions to fostering US-Japan relations in Seattle, 2010
- Received professional name (*natori*) as shamisen musician from Kine-ie Yashichi, Grandmaster of the Kine-ie School of *naga-uta* shamisen, Tokyo, Japan, 2013

## Memberships/Associations:

- Seattle Chapter, Japanese Calligraphy Institute of America, (*Beikoku Shodo Kenkyu Kai*).
- Charter member of Puget Sound Sumi Artists group, established in 1984.
- Sankei International Calligraphy Association. After receiving 3 prizes in the juried section, awarded title of *Kaiyu* (*Sankei* associate) in 2000 and exhibits in the special non-juried section.

## Education:

- BA in Fine Arts, University of California, Berkeley, 1955 *summa cum laude*; studied with John Haley, George McNeil, Felix Ruvolo, Corrado Marcarelli (visiting professor).
- Completed fifth year and student teaching towards a Master of Arts in Education at University of California, Berkeley; before completing degree, transferred to MA in Fine Arts program, 1959.
- MA in Fine Arts, University of California, Berkeley, California, 1960.
- University of California travelling fellowship 1960-1961. Studied woodblock printmaking with Un'ichi Hiratsuka and color woodblock with Hideo Hagiwara, Tokyo, Japan

## Additional Special Training: Calligraphy and Painting

- University of Washington Art Department: Japanese calligraphy with Yamanouchi Kan (visiting professor, Kyoto National University of Education), 1976; Gasei Komai (visiting professor, Waseda University), 1977; and Hakuto Ishii, 1978.
- Shizuo Okawahara, University of Washington visiting lecturer, calligrapher and professional textile dyer from Shikoku, Japan 1980.
- Aoki Yukei, archaic style of Japanese calligraphy, painting 1978.
- Kanshu Ikuta (Director), Hiroko Ikuta (President), Japanese Calligraphy Institute of America, Los Angeles, CA (contemporary calligraphy, basic styles and *Manyogana* style) 1979 - present.
- Lucy Liu (China & Taiwan), traditional Chinese brush painting.
- Hakuto Ishii, *Nihonga* and *Haiga* painting, 1979.
- Master HongDuan Yang (Beijing), Chinese brush painting, 2010 – present.

#### Additional Special Training: Japanese Textile Arts

- Basic and advanced weaving, University of Washington, with Doris Brockway, 1966,1969
- Japanese paste resist workshop, Mie Ohashi, 1966
- Scandinavian weaving with Lotte Mohl, Arhus, Denmark, 1970
- Japanese paste resist University of Washington, Shizuo Okawahara, 1978.

#### Commissions and Collections

- University of California Library, Berkeley, CA, USA.
- Oakland Public Library, Oakland, CA, USA.
- Caius College, Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK.
- Achenbach Foundation, California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, CA, USA.
- King County Portable Works at Harborview, Washington State Arts Commission, WA, USA.
- Rainier Bank, Seattle (weaving), WA, USA.

#### Prizes, awards:

- University of California travelling fellowship, Tokyo, Japan, 1960-1961
- *Sankei International* juried exhibition of Japanese calligraphy, Tokyo, Japan, 1985,1987 and 1989 - present (annually)
- New Year Exhibition Seiboku Group, received special award, Tokyo, Japan, 1989
- Special recognition award for furthering understanding of Japanese Culture in the US, Seattle Cherry Blossom Festival, 2001
- Washington State Convention and Trade Center Galleria, "Brush and Ink: Moving the Chi," Puget Sound Sumi Artists. Received 1<sup>st</sup> place award in 2005 and 2007.
- Recipient of a special recognition award from the Consul General of Japan, for her long-term contributions to fostering US-Japan relations in Seattle, 2010.
- First prize, Puget Sound Sumi Artists, Puyallup Community Gallery, Puyallup, WA, 2013.

#### Solo Exhibitions:

- San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, California, 1960
- Yoseido Gallery, Tokyo, Japan, 1960
- Bon Marche, Seattle, 1978
- Northwest Printmakers, Seattle Art Museum Pavilion, Seattle Center, Rentaloft Gallery, 1982
- Prima Vera Gallery Cafe, Seattle, 1985 and 1987.
- Northwind Arts Center, Port Townsend, WA, USA, 2010.

#### Notable Group Exhibitions

- M.H. de Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco Art Association, San Francisco, CA,1956, 1959
- San Francisco Art Museum, San Francisco, CA,1956,1958
- California State Fair, Sacramento, CA,1957
- Oakland Art Museum, Bay Printmakers Society, Oakland, CA, 1957
- Mills College for Women, Oakland, CA, 1958
- Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York, NY, 1958

- Tokyo Metropolitan Museum, International Print Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan, 1961
- Seattle Art Museum, International Print Exhibition, Seattle, 1963
- Portland Art Museum, Northwest Printmakers, Portland, OR, 1962
- Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 1970
- State Capitol Museum, Governor's Invitational Print Exhibit, Olympia, WA, 1978
- Northwest Printmakers, Seattle Art Museum Pavilion, Seattle Center, 1978-1984
- Cheney Cowles Memorial Museum, "Seven Printmakers," Spokane, WA, 1978
- Pacific Coast Printmakers Exhibition; Fort Steilacoom Community College, WA, 1978
- Wing Luke Asian Museum, Asian Artists Exhibit, Seattle, WA, 1979-1985
- Kiku Art Gallery, Magnificent Seven, Seattle, WA, 1979
- Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA, 1979, 1981
- Seattle Urban League, Minority Artists Exhibition, Seattle, WA, 1989-1982

#### Sumi & Calligraphy Exhibitions

- Hanford Gallery, Tacoma Public Library, Puget Sound Sumi Artists group annual exhibition, Tacoma, WA, 1984 – present.
- *Sankei International* juried exhibition of Japanese calligraphy, Tokyo, Japan, 1985, 1987 and 1989 - present (annually)
- Inaugural Puget Sound Sumi and Calligraphy Exhibition, Seattle, 1987
- New Year Exhibition Seiboku Group, received special award, Tokyo, Japan, 1989
- Cherry Blossom Festival Exhibition, Los Angeles, CA, 1989
- Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival, Seattle Center, *Beikoku Shodo Kenkyukai*, Japanese calligraphy, 1990 - present (every 5th year).
- Washington State Capital Building, heritage and exhibition of artwork by Asian Americans, sponsored by the Wing Luke Asian Museum, the Washington State Commission on Asian American Affairs and the office of State Representative Art Wang, Olympia, WA, 1991
- Mercer Island Arts Council, Seattle, WA, 1992
- Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival, Seattle Center, Puget Sound Sumi Artists, annual exhibition from 1995 - present
- *Beikoku Shodo Kenkyu Kai*, 25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Exhibition at Alford Gallery, Seattle Asian Art Museum, Exhibition Coordinator with the Education Department, Seattle Art Museum, 2003
- Evergreen College, "Painted Word Exhibition," Japanese calligraphy, Seattle, 2005
- Washington State Convention and Trade Center Galleria, "Brush and Ink: Moving the Chi," Puget Sound Sumi Artists. Received 1<sup>st</sup> place award in 2005 and 2007.
- Children's Museum, Olympia, WA, 2006
- *Beikoku Shodo Kenkyu Kai*, 30<sup>th</sup> Memorial Exhibition at Alford Gallery, Seattle Asian Art Museum, Exhibition Coordinator with the Education Department, Seattle Art Museum, 2008
- Columbia City Gallery, Seattle, WA. Puget Sound Sumi Artists exhibition, 2009 - 2010.
- Tacoma Nature Center, Puget Sound Sumi Artists, 2010.
- "*Haiga*," Puget Sound Sumi Artists, exhibition of *Haiga* poetry and painting, poems by Basho, Buson and Issa used as inspiration, juried by Sam Hamill, poet, Seattle, 2010.
- Sankei International Calligraphy, annual exhibit (non-juried *Kaiyu* member), Tokyo, Japan, 2010.
- Japanese Cultural & Community Center, Los Angeles, CA, 45th anniversary of Beikoku Shodo Kenkyu Kai, Doizaki Gallery, 2010.
- *Seishin Shaten* annual exhibition, Asahi Gallery, Tokyo, Japan, 2004 - present (annual exhibit)

- International Exchange exhibition, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum (calligraphy), 2011
- *Seishin Shaten* calligraphy, Shinshunten, New Modern Art Museum, Aoyama, Tokyo, Japan, 2011- present, annual exhibit
- Puget Sound Sumi Artists, Weyerhaeuser Bonsai Gallery, 2012, 2013
- *Beikoku Shodo Kenkyu Kai*, 35<sup>th</sup> Memorial Exhibition at Alford Gallery, Seattle Asian Art Museum, Exhibition Coordinator with the Education Department, Seattle Art Museum, 2013
- Puget Sound Sumi Artists, Puyallup Community Gallery, first prize, Puyallup, WA, 2013
- Puget Sound Sumi Artists, Kirsten Gallery, 2014

#### Washington State Artist in Residence (AIR) in Washington State Public Schools

- Sunrise School, Puyallup WA, 1985
- John Hay Elementary, Seattle, WA, 1985
- Lake Dolloff School, Federal Way, WA, 1985 and 1988
- Summit Elementary and Alternative School II, Seattle, 1987
- Ingraham and Cleveland High Schools, Seattle, 1988
- North Franklin School District: in Mesa, Connell and Basin City, WA, 1988
- Bryant Elementary, Seattle, WA, 1989
- Oak Heights Elementary, Edmonds, WA, 1989
- Latona Elementary School, Seattle, WA, 1989
- Lake Washington School District: Kamiakin Jr High; John Muir and Mark Twain Elementary, 1991
- Viewlands Elementary, Cleveland High School, Seattle, 1991
- Lincoln Elementary School, Toppenish, 1991
- West Hills Elementary, Northshore School District, Emerson School, Shadow Lake, Maple Valley, Bryant Elementary, 1992
- King County Children's International Festival - Pine Lake, Madrona School, 1994
- King County Shoreline Arts Council -11 Shoreline Public Schools, 1994
- Soo Creek Elementary, Auburn, April 27, 28,29 and May 1, 1999
- Einstein Elementary School, Redmond, WA, 2000
- Wainwright Elementary School, Tacoma, WA, 2000
- Sunny Hills Elementary School, Issaquah, WA, 2000
- Emerson Elementary School, Seattle, WA, received 6 week grant to teach entire school, Japan and salmon culture of the Northwest, 2000
- Soos Creek Elementary, Auburn, 2000
- Syre Elementary School, Shoreline, 2001
- John Stanford International School, 2001 and 2005

#### Seattle Art Commission Grant Programs/Projects

- Gatewood Elementary School, 1988, Broadview Elementary, North Beach 1986, 1987
- Bryant Elementary School, Seattle, 1990 and 1991
- Montlake and John Muir Elementary Schools, Seattle, 1993
- Also matching grants for John Hay Elementary, Summit, Ingraham- Cleveland, Latona School

#### Seattle Art Museum Grant Programs/Projects

- Bryant Elementary, Seattle, calligraphy, 1989, 1990-1993
- Cleveland High School, Seattle, calligraphy, 1991

#### Very Special Arts, Washington Alliance for Arts

- Pullman School District, teaching Japanese painting and calligraphy to developmentally disabled, and paired with regular program, at three schools (elementary and junior high), 1989

#### King County Arts Commission, Ethnic Artist-in-Residence

- North City, Shoreline School District, 1989
- Sunny Hills, Issaquah, 1991
- Redmond High School, Redmond, 1991
- Bryant School, 1993

#### Washington School District Independent Residences

- Shadow Lake Elementary, 1985 to present
- Lake Wilderness District, Lake Wilderness School 1988, 1989
- Lake Washington School District, Benjamin Franklin Elementary School in Kirkland, Lynnwood School District, Lockwood Elementary, alternative program, Lake Washington School District, Margaret Mead, 1991
- Issaquah School District, multiple locations, 1992-1995
- Soos Creek, Kent, 1993-1995
- Issaquah School District, at Sunny Hills Elementary School, 1994-1995
- Mercer Island, and Tahoma School District, 1994
- African American Academy K-8, Seattle, 2004
- Hamilton Middle School, Seattle, taught Japanese calligraphy to Japanese language students, in January 2006 and March 2007
- John Stanford International School, Giant Magnet grant recipient to teach Japanese arts, theme: "Storytelling thru the Arts," November 2009
- Concord Elementary School, Seattle, hands on classes for 300 students, sumi painting and Japanese calligraphy through a Giant Magnet grant, March 2010

#### Seattle Schools District Arts in Education Program (1978- Present)

- Laurelhurst School, Briarcliff, South Shore, Greenlake, John Muir, Maple, Kimberley, Martin Luther King, Pinehurst Alt. I, short term residencies
- Demonstrations and Performances at Forest Ridge, Fatima, Bush, Spruce Street, Echo Lake in Shoreline, East Gate, Bainbridge Island Schools, Bothell, Renton, Highline, Auburn and others.

#### Special Projects and Workshops

- Cornish College of the Arts, calligraphy, 1991
- Toppenish School, 2 week residence, Washington State Arts Commission, 1991
- Hyogo Business & Cultural Center, calligraphy workshop, Seattle, 1992
- Ilalko Elementary School, Auburn Arts Commission grant, 1997
- Snohomish County Children's Museum in Everett, Japan project, mural painting, 1999
- Seattle Asian Art Museum, calligraphy demonstration, February 16, 23 and March 9, 1999
- Merman School for the Gifted, Los Angeles, California, demonstration of Japanese calligraphy and dance, November 1999
- Seattle Children's Museum, Seattle Center, 1999
- St. George School, Tukwila, calligraphy class, 2000

- From Hiroshima to Hope, atomic bomb memorial observance at Greenlake. Coordinated volunteers from the Beikoku Shodo Kenkyu Kai Japanese calligraphy group, to provide calligraphy for floating memorial lanterns, August 6, 2003 - present
- Seattle Asian Art Museum, woodblock and relief print class, December 2003
- North Seattle Community College, calligraphy workshop, Seattle, 2005
- Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington, Seattle, "*Kodomo No Hi*," Children's Day event, demonstration and master class, May 1, 2010.
- Nikkei Horizons, Seattle, 8 week sumi painting course as master teacher, Winter, Spring and Fall quarters, 2004 - present
- Japanese Garden and Arboretum for the Seattle Parks Department, 4 week sumi painting class, September 2010
- Japanese Garden and Arboretum, lecture, "Nature in Japanese Arts," November 2010

#### Teaching: College/University Level and Extension Courses

- South Seattle Community College, "Basic Painting," Winter 1979
- Seattle University Summer quarters, Fine Arts Department, taught Japanese woodblock printmaking, Japanese calligraphy, painting with the Japanese brush and an introduction to Japanese performing arts, 1981 -1991.
- University of Washington Extension - non credit programs, "Traditional Arts in Japan" Fall 1979, Winter 1980, Spring 1984 (lecture-demonstration course covering visual and performing arts - Japanese calligraphy, tea ceremony, textiles, music of koto and shamisen, Noh, Kyogen, Kabuki drama, folk arts and customs. "Japanese Calligraphy," Fall 1980 -1986, "Japanese Woodblock Printmaking," 1982,1984 Japanese Music and Dance, Winter 1981
- Shoreline Community College, taught 8 week calligraphy course, November and December 2003, March and May 2006
- Antioch University. Sumi Painting, 2005

#### Teaching: In-service Training for Teachers

- Seattle Art Museum, Japanese calligraphy seminar, Nov 4, 2000
- Seattle School District multi-ethnic seminars, August 30, 2001
- Renton School District (through Seattle Pacific University)
- Washington State Seminar "Teaching About Japan" (sponsored by East Asia Resource Center at Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington; Consulate General of Japan, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington State Council for the Social Studies)
- Washington State Alliance for the Arts seminar

#### International Elder Hostel Program at Seattle University

- Coordinator and lecturer Japanese Elder Hostel (first program - week long lectures in Japanese for Japanese seniors from Japan) "Japanese Influences on America", 1988,1989,1990
- Lecturer Domestic Elder Program "Japanese Calligraphy and Painting," 1989

#### Community Workshops and Performances

- Seattle Art Museum classes, demonstration Japanese calligraphy, 1999
- Wing Luke Museum, woodblock printmaking