



ARTIST PROFILE

Junko Azukawa grew up overlooking the picturesque Sea of Japan from her northern Japanese home city of Toyama. Her lifelong study of the art of calligraphy began at the age of five at the acclaimed Hokuriku Calligraphy Academy.

In recent years, Junko has been privileged to study directly from the head of the Hokuriku Calligraphy Academy, Shiro Aoyagi, one of Japan's most prominent calligraphy artists. Junko has been able to develop confidence as an artist under his guidance and began to understand that a full and rich existence can be the reward of a life devoted to the study and practice of calligraphy.

After coming to Melbourne in 2005, Junko has had three art exhibitions and has established a unique business, 'SUMIDO', through which she teaches calligraphy and produces art and designs inspired by calligraphy. She has designed logos for Melbourne fashion label 'TOOT EASTWOOD', several martial arts schools, a book title, tattoos and recently the central artwork for a new beer label for the Japanese brand KIRIN®, released in the Australian market in late 2007.

In 2006, Junko met Sumi-e artist and Zen master, Andre Sollier, and became his student. He taught Junko the importance of the relationship between calligraphy and Sumi-e. This encounter proved to be a turning point in her life. Junko now tries to spread the warmth she found in Andre's work through her own art.

Junko's highly individual work oscillates dynamically between striking and subtle through unique combinations of ink and watercolours. The original free-form works of prose and poetry contained in her pieces add a dimension of warmth which express ideas and feelings both practical and philosophical.

Qualifications

'Shihan' (Japanese Calligraphy Instructor). Hokuriku Calligraphy Academy, Japan
Bachelor of Engineering (Industrial Design). Wakayama University, Japan.

Professional Experience

2010 - North Ringwood Community House - Japanese Ink Painting Teacher.
2009 - 2010 Box Hill Community Arts Centre - Japanese Ink Painting Teacher.
2008 - 2010 Centre for Adult Education - Japanese Calligraphy and Ink Painting Teacher.
2005 - 2010 SUMIDO Calligraphy and Painting School, Australia - Head Teacher.

Exhibitions (* solo exhibitions)

Sept 2010 "Notes from the heart", Kazari Gallery, Melbourne.*
Oct 2009 "GO FONT YOUR SELF", Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane
June 2009 "GO FONT YOUR SELF", Peer Gallery, Sydney and Dont Come, Melbourne.
June 2009 "me and my TOYOTA", Toyota Community Spirit Gallery, Melbourne.
June 2009 Australia on Collins, Melbourne, Australia.
May 2009 Box Hill Community Arts Centre, Melbourne, Australia.
Mar-Apr 09 Consulate-General of Japan, Melbourne, Australia.
Feb-Mar 09 "Women's Salon: Stories of Hope", Counihan Gallery, Melbourne, Australia.
Feb-Mar 09 "Linden Postcard Show", Linden Gallery, Melbourne, Australia.
Dec-Feb 08/9 "Fresh Edges: Timeless Pieces", Kazari Gallery, Melbourne, Australia.
Nov 2008 Hokuriku Calligraphy Exhibition, Toyama, Japan.
Sept-Oct 08 Consulate-General of Japan, Melbourne, Australia. (with students)
July 2008 "Shikai - Fields of Vision", Fad Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
June-July 08 "Making Marks", Kazari Gallery, Melbourne, Australia.
Apr 2008 "Art Melbourne" exhibited by Kazari Gallery, Melbourne, Australia.
Dec 2007 Jiyu-Kan Selected Calligraphy Exhibition, Toyama, Japan.
Nov 2007 Hokuriku Calligraphy Exhibition, Toyama, Japan.
May-June 07 Consulate-General of Japan, Melbourne, Australia.*
Nov 2006 Hokuriku Calligraphy Exhibition, Toyama, Japan.
Sept 2006 Australia on Collins, Melbourne, Australia.
Feb 2006 Kokoro Gallery, Melbourne, Australia.*
June 2005 Jiyu-Kan Selected Calligraphy Exhibition, Toyama, Japan.
May 2005 Women's Japanese Calligraphy Exhibition, Toyama, Japan.

Commercial Designs

Lexus - Calligraphy artwork for 2011 product catalogue.
KIRIN - Artwork for beer label and associated advertising for Australian promotion.
DAIWA FOOD - Calligraphy artwork and packaging for various products
TOOT EASTWOOD - Fashion label tags and advertising material.
AKASHA THERAPY - Logo and advertising material.
Shotokan Karatedo Kenseikai, Australia - Logo.
DANZFUZION Dance School, Australia - Logo.
Eastern Aikido, Australia - Logo.
Shizenkan Martial Arts School, Australia - Book titles.
Himawari Martial Arts School, US - Signage.

Media

- Jan 2010 "Junko Azukawa Interview" - GO GO Melbourne.
Nov 2009 "Junko Azukawa Interview" - JAMS.TV.
Oct 2009 "Junko Azukawa Interview" - KIRIN presents GO FONT UR SELF*.
May 2009 "Join in Matsudo Week celebrations" - Whitehorse News.
8 July 2008 "Japanese Artist's Master Stroke" - Moreland Community News.

Prizes

- Nov 2008 Kitanihon Press Prize, Hokuriku Japanese Calligraphy Exhibition, Japan.
Nov 2007 Best New Artist, Hokuriku Japanese Calligraphy Exhibition, Japan.
Nov 2006 General Category Prize, Hokuriku Japanese Calligraphy Exhibition, Japan.

Invited Calligraphy/Painting Workshops and Demonstrations

- Sept 2010 Templestowe Park Primary School, Melbourne.
Aug 2010 Chisholm Institute, Melbourne.
May 2010 International Conference In Health Care, Melbourne.
Apr 2010 Lion Nathan Conference, Crown Casino, Melbourne.
Oct 2009 Art Education Victoria Conference, Melbourne.
Oct 2009 No Vacancy, Melbourne.
Oct 2009 Peer Gallery, Sydney.
Sep 2009 Boroondara Park Primary School, Melbourne.
Sep 2009 St Anne's Primary school, Melbourne.
Sep 2009 Templestowe Park Primary School, Melbourne.
Sep 2009 Solway Primary School, Melbourne.
Aug 2009 Haileybury College, Melbourne.
July 2009 Melton Secondary College, VIC
July 2009 Kilvington Girls' Grammar School, Melbourne
June 2009 The Mac.Robertson Girls' HighSchool, Melbourne.
June 2009 Simonds Cathoric College, Melbourne.
June 2009 Mount Waverley Secondary College, Melbourne.
June 2009 Made In Japan, Melbourne.
May 2009 Ivanhoe Grammar School, Melbourne.
May 2009 Orchard Grove Primary School, Melbourne.
May 2009 Box Hill Community Arts Centre, Melbourne.
Apr 2009 The Centre Connecting Community, Melbourne.
Nov 2008 Templestowe Park Primary School, Melbourne.
Oct 2008 Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School, Melbourne.
Aug 2008 Mount Waverley Secondary College, Melbourne.
June 2008 RMIT University, Melbourne.
May 2008 Mount Waverley Secondary College, Melbourne.
May 2008 Ikebana International, Melbourne.
May 2008 Ivanhoe Grammar School, Melbourne.
Mar 2008 St Columba's College, Melbourne.
Sept 2007 Xavier College, Melbourne.