

Press release of 15 August 2016

Etsuko Hardegger-Hashimoto: «Bokugi – Ink games»

Swiss-Japanese artist Etsuko Hardegger-Hashimoto not only paints with ink, she also plays with it. Along with Japan paper, black ink in its countless shades forms the basis of the diverse work of the artist, work which besides classic Japanese subjects and formats includes collages, paintings constructed using stencils and sculptures made from painted paper. The tones, rhythms and forms of nature inspire the artist to unique works full of depth and expressiveness.

Etsuko Hardegger-Hashimoto has been occupied with Japanese art and culture for many decades and, for more than 15 years, also intensively with western art. Her great knowledge and skills, her boundless curiosity and her long experience with different artistic techniques are reflected in her multifaceted work. That her work has its origins in the art of Japanese ink painting is demonstrated not only by Hardegger-Hashimoto's preferred materials of ink and Japan paper. It is also evident in the often pared down, sometimes almost abstract paintings, which do not represent a subject exactly, but rather seek to convey its essence and the thoughts and feelings of the artist.

Etsuko Hardegger-Hashimoto finds her inspiration in traditional Japanese art, as well as in touch, tone, movement, and the rhythms and playful, serene forms of nature. The artist translates these into painting with great concentration and precision and with the most varied shades and textures of ink: For example, in the ink-collage «In Water», whose vibrancy and power is created by a combination of the most diverse tonalities; in «Landscape», that – painted with stencils – has an astounding sense of depth; in «Object», a flower-like, sensuous wall sculpture made from painted paper stretched over wire; or in the painting «In the Forest», in which fanciful animal figures frolic before a thicket.

As different as the works of the artist are, every one of them excites through its radiance, depth and intricacy, and through the playful diversity that comes from Etsuko Hardegger-Hashimoto's ceaseless experimentation with ink and Japan paper.

You and your friends are warmly invited to the exhibition preview on Thursday 25 August 2016, from 17.00 to 20.00. The artist will be present.

Exhibition tour with the artist: Wednesday 14 September 2016, 18.30.

Closing event with the artist: Saturday 8 October 2016, from 12.00 to 14.00.

The exhibition runs from 26 August 2016 to 8 October 2016.

Opening hours: Wednesday to Friday 13.00–18.00, Saturday 11.00–14.00, or by appointment.

Further information available from:

Claudia Geiser

+41 79 675 65 40, info@claudiageiser.ch

Etsuko Hardegger-Hashimoto

Artistic career

Since 2009	Study of ink painting (<i>Sumie</i>) with Master Tohun Kobayashi in Tokyo (JP)
2004/2006	Salzburg International Summer Academy of Fine Arts (AT)
2003	Summer Academy of the Lucerne School of Art and Design (CH)
2002	Salzburg International Summer Academy of Fine Arts (AT)
1998–2003	Study of calligraphy with Masters Saiu Kanai and Gekka Kajimoto, Ako (JP)
1974	Admission as a permanent member of the state-recognised artist association <i>Shigenkai</i> (JP)
1969–1979	Private tuition with Professor Ichiro Kaji at the University of Kobe (JP)
1969	Selected for the exhibition of the <i>Shigenkai</i> (JP)

Exhibitions

2015	Galerie Artesol, Solothurn (CH) Japan Information and Cultural Centre (JICC), Berne (CH)
2014	Galerie raku-art, Winterthur (CH)
2012	Japan Information and Cultural Centre (JICC), Berne (CH)
2011	Paulusheim, Lucerne (CH)
2009	Verein Japanischer Künstler in der Schweiz, Japan Information and Cultural Centre (JICC), Berne (CH)
2008	Galerie de Grancy, Lausanne (CH)
2006	Hohensalzburg Fortress, Summer Academy Salzburg (AT)
2005	Solo exhibition, Marghitola AG, Lucerne (CH)
2004	Hohensalzburg Fortress, Summer Academy Salzburg (AT)
2003	Lucerne School of Art and Design (CH)
2002	Hallein, Summer Academy Salzburg (AT)
1980	International exhibition in Arezzo (IT)
1969–1979	Three annual exhibitions with <i>Shigenkai</i> in Tokyo, Kobe and Himeji (JP)

Selected works

1. Etsuko Hardegger-Hashimoto, *In Water*, 2012, ink-collage on Japan paper, 34 x 67 cm.
2. Etsuko Hardegger-Hashimoto, *Landscape*, 2012, ink on Japan paper, 74 x 102 cm (detail).
3. Etsuko Hardegger-Hashimoto, *Object*, 2011, ink on Japan paper, 48 x 54 x 28 cm.
4. Etsuko Hardegger-Hashimoto, *In the Forest*, 2011, ink-collage on Japan paper, 34 x 67 cm.