

Press release of 15 May 2015

Sanae Sakamoto: «Tao and Zen»

Sanae Sakamoto's art forges bridges – between East Asia and the West as well as between tradition and modernity. The Japanese-Swiss master of calligraphy studied in Tokyo and Beijing and has lived and worked in Switzerland since 1971, where she conveys East Asian art and culture through her work and teaching. Using ink and a few colour accents the artist gives lively form to the thoughts and feelings that lie at the heart of her works, making them immediately tangible to the viewer.

Sanae Sakamoto was taught calligraphy in her home town of Tokyo while still a child. She later studied Japanese and Chinese calligraphy, as well as classical poetry and literature, in Tokyo and Beijing. This knowledge and skill, together with the teachings of Taoism and Zen Buddhism, form the basis of her multifaceted work. Large, expressive paintings stand alongside small, intimate calligraphic works, traditional landscapes alongside floral subjects. Black ink, with its infinite nuances, is essential to Sakamoto. Depending on the subject, however, she also mixes lustrous gold, blue or green pigments in with the ink or contrasts the black with luminous red or blue. The artist has some paintings mounted as classical hanging scrolls, others are given a simple frame.

By combining traditional and modern elements Sanae Sakamoto conveys central aspects of East Asian culture in an impressive and accessible way. She turns Zen words, Haiku and other poems or Tao wisdom into paintings whose content can be accessible to an observant viewer, even without knowledge of the letters and symbols themselves. As varied as the paintings may be, each moves us equally through its special mood, vibrant aura and complexity. The motto that Sakamoto gives to her painting *Shun (Time)* also applies to her latest exhibition: «Anytime, everywhere, one finds precious moments».

You and your friends are warmly invited to the exhibition preview on Thursday 28 May 2015, from 17.00 to 20.00. The artist will be present.

The exhibition runs from 29 May to 18 July 2015.

Events with Sanae Sakamoto: Drinks on Thursday 18 June and 2 July 2015 from 17.00 to 19.00, closing drinks on Saturday 18 July from 12.00 to 14.00.

Opening hours: Wednesday to Friday 12.30 to 18.00, Saturday 11.00 to 14.00, or by appointment.

Further information available from:

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Sanae Sakamoto

Education/ Career

- Since 1984 Working as an independent artist
 1981–2008 Teacher in Chinese-Japanese calligraphy, Basel School of Design (CH)
 Since 1980 Teacher in Chinese-Japanese calligraphy and Chinese ink painting, privately and at various institutions
 1980–1981 Chinese calligraphy and classical Chinese literature under Zhang Zheng Guo, Peking University (CN), award of master title «Sōkō»
 1971 Move to Switzerland
 1961–1963 Study of Chinese and Japanese literature, teaching diploma certificate, Atomi University, Tokyo (JP)
 1953–1961 Calligraphy studies under Hoshino Shūu, award of master title «Sō shū»

Born in Tokyo (JP), taught calligraphy by her grandmother, the master Hana Sakamoto

Selected solo exhibitions

2014	Lassalle-Haus, Zug (CH)	2000	Bürkert, Ingelfingen (DE)
2013	Katharina-Werk, Basel (CH)	1999	Galerie Atrium ed Arte, Vienna (AT)
2011	Lassalle-Haus, Zug (CH)	1998	Galerie Vita, Bern (CH)
2009	Kulturarena, Bern (CH)		Galerie Kunst Keller, Basel (CH)
2008	Lassalle-Haus, Zug (CH)	1997	Ortsmuseum Trotte, Arlesheim (CH)
2007	Ortsmuseum Trotte, Arlesheim (CH)	1996	Villa Berberich, Bad Säckingen (DE)
2006	Kunstforum Stallikon (CH)	1995	Galerie Vita, Bern (CH)
	Swiss Radio, studio Basel (CH)		Cultural centre, Witterswil SO (CH)
	Galerie ARTESOL, Solothurn (CH)	1994–1996	Galerie Wild, Frankfurt a.M. (DE)
2005	Lassalle-Haus, Zug (CH)	1993	Galerie T4 (Sprünglihaus), Zurich (CH)
	UNO, Geneva (CH), group exhibition	1992	Galerie Vita, Bern (CH)
2004	Galerie KSU, Unterseen/Interlaken (CH)	1991	Galerie Götz, Basel (CH)
	Galerie Laterne, Breitenbach (CH)		Ortsmuseum Trotte, Arlesheim (CH)
2003	Galerie schrift-art.ch, Rheineck (CH)	1988	Orangerie Elfenau, Bern (CH)
	Völkerkundemuseum, Zurich (CH)		Galerie Atelierhaus, Ladenau (DE)
2002	Lassalle-Haus, Zug (CH)	1987	Heraldry Hall, Mainau Castle (DE)
2001	Villa Schüpbach, Steffisburg (CH)	1986	Villa Berberich, Bad Säckingen (DE)
	Ortsmuseum Trotte, Arlesheim (CH)		Swiss Museum for Paper, Basel (CH)
2000	Bonndorf Castle (DE)	1984	Japan Club-Gallery, New York (USA)
	Lassalle-Haus, Zug (CH)		

Public works and exhibitions

Health resort Bad Säckingen (DE); Museum for Paper, Basel (CH); Congress Centre Davos (CH); Swissair-Asia, logo for MD-11 aircraft; Habasit Ltd., Reinach (CH); calligraphy collection H. Götze, Heidelberg (DE); VPOD, trade union logo (CH); Lassalle-Haus, Zug (CH); art collection Würth-Museum (DE); art collection Schüpbach, Thun (CH); art collection of the cultural foundation (KSU) Unterseen/Interlaken (CH); logo artwork for cosmetics company DHC (JP/CH); Toyota, Event «40 Jahre Toyota Schweiz» (CH).

Selected publications

Kalligraphien Sanae Sakamoto, 1984 (out of print); Sanae Sakamoto, *Chinesisch-japanische Kalligraphie*, 1998; *TAO und ZEN*, Kalligraphien von Sanae Sakamoto, 4th edition, 1999; Sanae Sakamoto, *Wolken ziehen, Wasser fliesst, japanische Kalligraphie und Malerei*, 2nd edition, 2002; book illustration: Anna Gamma, *Ruhig im Sturm*, 2008.

Selected works

1. Sanae Sakamoto, *Kū (Empty)*, 2014, ink with green pigment on Japanese tissue paper, 105 x 90 cm.*
2. Sanae Sakamoto, *Ensō shi dō (The Circle – The Highest Path)*, 2015, ink with blue pigment on Japanese tissue paper, 80 x 102 cm.*
3. Sanae Sakamoto, *Ran (Orchid)*, 2012, ink and pigment on Japanese tissue paper, 70 x 50 cm.
4. Sanae Sakamoto, *Shun (Time)*, 2015, ink with green pigment on Japanese tissue paper, 77 x 42 cm.
5. Sanae Sakamoto, *Wa (Harmony)*, 2013, ink on Japanese tissue paper, 42 x 42 cm.
6. Sanae Sakamoto, *Shizuka na (Seascape)*, 2015, ink on Japanese tissue paper, 32 x 65 cm.

* Photographs by Roland Tännler