

Press release of 9 October 2015

Suishū T. Klopfenstein-Arii: «Images of the Heart. The World in Black and White»

In East Asia calligraphy has been a living cultural asset for thousands of years. It is a world of black and white, a world of peace and depth that aims not to portray external splendour, but rather express the inner world and personality of the writer. A renowned exponent of this art form in Switzerland is the master of calligraphy, Suishū T. Klopfenstein-Arii. Her paintings of the heart reflect the diversity of Chinese-Japanese calligraphy and her knowledge and skill, which she also passes on in the course of her teaching activities.

*Writing reflects the heart
I want to travel this path
unhurriedly
honestly
questioning myself
striving for perfection
I want to create works of art
that do not express Far Eastern exoticism
but rather address people directly
touching them
- my entire life*

Suishū T. Klopfenstein-Arii, 1987

Suishū T. Klopfenstein-Arii was only seven when she began her calligraphic journey. She has mastered all classical writing styles and holds a master diploma in Chinese-Japanese calligraphy, which she has taught for many decades at the University of Zurich and promoted at home and abroad with numerous exhibitions, speeches, public presentations, publications and illustrations.

Suishū T. Klopfenstein-Arii not only fosters the ancient calligraphic traditions of China and Japan, she has also created innovative, stand-alone calligraphic works for many years. Powerful paintings stand beside delicate ones, abstract beside representational, paintings of classical format beside modern, ink on paper contrasts with acrylic on canvas. This diverse oeuvre fascinates through perfection of form and technique, as well as exuberance, honesty, depth and intensity. Even without knowledge of the characters used, the expression of the strokes and their arrangement on the surface reveal the inner world of the artist, about whom Professor Dr. Helmut Brinker wrote in *Images of the Heart*: «As flowing traces of movement in India ink on paper, writing – her passion and vocation – reveals the impulses of her heart.»

You and your friends are warmly invited to the exhibition preview on Wednesday 21 October 2015, from 17.00 to 20.00. The artist will be present.

The exhibition runs from 22 October 2015 to 9 January 2016.

Christmas drinks with the artist: Sunday 6 December 2015 from 14.00 to 16.00. At 15.00 a video will be shown: In Paris Senrei Nishikawa, exponent of the Nihon Buyō (traditional Japanese dance), dances in front of a stage installation with works by the artist.

Closing drinks with the artist: Saturday 9 January 2016 from 12.00 to 14.00.

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

Christmas holidays from 24 December 2015 to 3 January 2016. Viewing by appointment possible outside normal opening hours and during the Christmas holidays.

Further information available from:

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

Suishū T. Klopfenstein-Arii

Career

Born in Wakayama (JP) as second child to a physician and haiku poet (Sensui) and to a master of tea ceremony (Sōtoku).

Study of traditional calligraphy under the tutelage of calligraphy masters TANIGUCHI Soseki, FUJITA Reisen, TOYODA Fumi and TAKAZAWA Nansō from the age of seven.

She holds a master diploma in Chinese-Japanese calligraphy (*Zen Nihon Shogei Bunkain*, All Japan Calligraphy Art and Literature Association) and has mastered all classical writing styles. For many years she has also been exploring new design avenues with her unique brush technique.

Completed her studies at Dōshisha University in Kyōto (JP).

Lecturer at Zurich University from 1976 to 2006.

Since 1967 she has been living in Switzerland with her husband, Swiss Japanologist Prof. em. Dr. Eduard Klopfenstein (Zurich University).

Selected solo exhibitions and two-person exhibitions

2014–15	Siebold-Museum, Würzburg (DE)	1991	Landgut Schloss Greifenstein (CH)
2012	Ethnographic museum, University of Zurich (CH)	1988	Augustinermuseum, Freiburg i.B. (DE)
2008	Embassy of Japan, Brussels (BE)		School of Design, Bern (CH)
2007	Centre Culturel Franco-Japonais, Paris (FR)	1987	Paulus-Akademie, Zurich (CH)
2006	University of St. Gallen (CH)		

	Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola, Lugano (CH)
	Galerie am Leewasser, Brunnen (CH)
2005	Château d'Yverdon-les-Bains (CH)
2003	Ethnographic museum, University of Zurich (CH)
2002	Paulus-Akademie, Zurich (CH)
2000	Consulat du Japon, Geneva (CH)
1998	Municipal museum Aschaffenburg (DE)
1995	Paulus-Akademie, Zurich (CH)
1994	Grand Hotel Bad Ragaz (CH)
1993	Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Lausanne (CH)
1992	Musée Collections Baur, Geneva (CH)
	Assoc. Culturale Arte Giappone, Milan (IT)
1991	Galerie Gluri-Sutter-Huus, Wettingen (CH)

Selected group exhibitions

2014	Embassy of Japan, Bern (CH)
2013	Galerie am Leewasser, Brunnen (CH)
2010	Art Show Zurich International (CH)
2007	Tokyo International Forum (JP)
2006	Museum of Art, Tianjin (CN)
2005	Palais des Nations, Geneva (CH)
Since 1996	Biennially at the Embassy of Japan, Bern (CH)
1993	Town hall Zurich (CH)
	EKŌ-Haus Düsseldorf (DE)
1989	Ueno no mori Museum (JP)
1987	Museo d'arte Mendrisio (CH)
1986	Lichthof University of Zurich (CH)

Selected publications

Images of the Heart – The Art of Handwriting. Suishū T. Klopfenstein-Arii, with texts from Helmut Brinker, Takazawa Nansō and Suishū T. Klopfenstein-Arii, Benteli Publishers, 2012.

Suishū T. Klopfenstein-Arii, *Schrift und Schriftkunst in China und Japan*, Peter Lang Verlag, 1992.

«Sho – Die Welt in Schwarz und Weiss», in: *Ästhetik des Zen-Buddhismus*, DenkMal Verlag, 2011.

Exhibition catalogues: Collection Baur Geneva (CH), Municipal Museum Aschaffenburg (DE), Museo d'Arte Mendrisio (CH).

Calligraphic artworks for a wide-range of books, magazines and newspapers, including three volumes of essays by Tanizaki Jun'ichirō (Manesse Verlag, 2010/11) and the work *Zhuangzi* (Ammann Verlag, 2009).

Cards for UNICEF and the Museum Rietberg, Zurich, 1999–2003.

Selected works

1. Suishū T. Klopfenstein-Arii, *Splendid*, 2011, acrylic on canvas, in two parts, each 120 x 50 cm.
2. Suishū T. Klopfenstein-Arii, *A Lifetime*, 2008, ink on Japanese tissue paper, 26 x 64 cm.
3. Suishū T. Klopfenstein-Arii, *Longing*, 2014, ink on Japanese tissue paper, 70 x 80 cm.
4. Suishū T. Klopfenstein-Arii, *Absolute Silence*, 2005, ink on Japanese tissue paper, silk-backed, 172 x 96 cm.