

生付花 Sogetsu

50 years in Australia & New Zealand

Many people associate flowers only with spring and summer and might think that the rest of the year provides little inspiration for floral artists, but heading into winter, there was no shortage of inspiration for ikebana artists in Sydney at the spectacular floral installation performed by Sogetsu Iemoto Akane Teshigahara on 19 May.

Sogetsu is one of the world's three largest schools of ikebana, traditional Japanese flower arrangement. Mr Norman Sparnon OAM introduced Sogetsu to Australia 50 years ago. He believed that the art form could also help to promote understanding between Australia and Japan and beyond.

Ms Akane Teshigahara became the head (*iemoto*) of the Sogetsu school in 2001. The installations she creates are on a scale not found in traditional ikebana. Line, mass and colour combine with the traditional sense of asymmetry, and here Iemoto Teshigahara is standing in front of her dynamic installation created in honour of the 50th anniversary and those who have helped Sogetsu grow in Australia and New Zealand.



Sogetsu Iemoto Akane Teshigahara

Fourth Inoue Yasushi Award Ceremony

On 7 June the Fourth Inoue Yasushi Award was presented in a ceremony at the Japan Foundation, Sydney, to Dr Mats Karlsson of the University of Sydney.

Due to another commitment, Dr Karlsson received the award in absentia and sent a video message to the ceremony.

The Inoue Yasushi Award was founded in 2006 by the Inoue Yasushi Memorial Centre and established at the University of Sydney to encourage Australian researchers, scholars and PhD students who are studying Japanese culture and literature. The award is for the best refereed journal article or book chapter on Japanese literature published in English during the previous year. The researcher must be based in Australia or, from 2010, New Zealand.

Dr Karlsson received the award for his paper "Writing Madness: Deranged Impressions in Akutagawa's 'Cogwheels' and Strindberg's *Inferno*" (Comparative Literature Studies, Vol. 46, No. 4, 2009). He teaches and

researches modern Japanese fiction and comparative literature, as well as Japanese cinema.

After the award ceremony, Mrs Yoshiko Kuroda, a poet and the second daughter of Inoue Yasushi, spoke on *My Father and his Poetry* and gave a poetry reading. A film based on Inoue's story of the tea master Sen no Rikyu was also screened.

Yasushi Inoue (1907-1991) was one of Japan's most prolific and popular authors. He wrote essays, poems, novels and short stories, aimed at all levels of readers. Inoue is most well known for his historical and autobiographical works. He achieved both popular appeal and literary acclaim, winning among others the prestigious Akutagawa Prize in 1949 for his novel *Tōgyū* (The Bullfight) set in post-war Japan.

Letters to the Editor

The Editor of *Japan Reports* welcomes any comments and suggestions you may have. Letters relating to Australia and Japan (opinions/experiences) are also welcome.

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