



Ikebana: A Fresh Look at Japanese Flower Arranging

By Diane Norman, Michelle Cornell

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The Japanese have an innate sense of style in the arts, architecture, interior design and especially in their attitude to flowers and plants within the home. Until now, in the West we haven't explored ikebana, the ancient art of arranging plant material, in any great depth. With the trend towards pared-down, simple rooms, now is the time to discover how its sculptural style can complement contemporary interiors. "Ikebana" is much more than simply flower arranging. Over the centuries, Japanese masters have developed precise rules that take into consideration the natural shapes and lines of plants, the space around them and the best way of displaying them. In Japan, ikebana is practised by millions of people as a relaxing art form and is even part of the school curriculum. Diane Norman is a master of the Ohara School, which is known for its modern interpretation of traditional styles. Michelle Cornell has an art history background, and together they have written a book that brings ikebana into the twenty-first century, explaining how its sculptural qualities and calm creative techniques are perfectly suited to today's interiors, as well as being an ideal antidote to the stresses of modern living. After a brief history of ikebana, the book guides you through the basic techniques needed to create your own arrangements. Then a selection of arrangements illustrates the importance of the changing seasons in choosing plant material, while fantastic free-style designs show how ikebana can echo specific details of an interior.

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- Sales Rank: #4089285 in Books
- Published on: 2007-06-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.02" h x .51" w x 8.58" l, 1.10 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 160 pages

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Diane Norman is a Master in the Ohara School of Ikebana and is a member of Ikebana International, the European Ohara Teachers Association and the England Chapter of the Ohara School. Diane runs a school of ikebana with day classes, workshops and residential courses. She also demonstrates and lectures on ikebana all over Britain. Further information may be obtained from www.ikebana.uk.com. Michelle Cornell organises workshops in London for people wishing to learn ikebana. Her background in art history and design, and her interest in healing art forms have led her to promote ikebana on a spiritual level as well as an aesthetic one.

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