

IKEBANA: THE ART OF MAKING FLOWERS ALIVE

Saryu Trivedi, Ronak Mangroliya and Mallika Sindha

Abstract

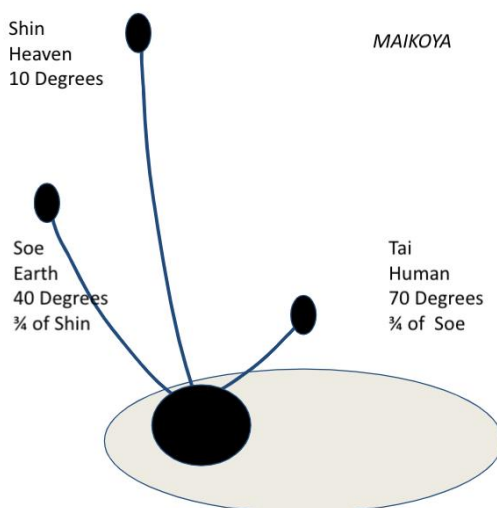
Ikebana is a Japanese art of flower arranging which has gained popularity in world owing to its delicate but deep association with spirituality, creativity, life and nature. The word *ikebana* is usually translated as “the Japanese art of flower arrangement”, but the materials of *ikebana* can include freshly cut branches, vines, leaves, grasses, berries, fruit, seeds, and flowers, as well as wilted and dried plants.

ACH, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Gujarat.
Email: saryutrivedi17@gmail.com

Ikebana is a Japanese art of flower arranging which has gained popularity in world owing to its delicate but deep association with spirituality, creativity, life and nature. The word ikebana is usually translated as “the Japanese art of flower arrangement” (Ikebana International, 2014), but the materials of ikebana can include freshly cut branches, vines, leaves, grasses, berries, fruit, seeds, and flowers, as well as wilted and dried plants.

Basic Lines of Ikebana are Described as Under

1. **Shin:** It is the most important basic line of the ikebana. It symbolizes heaven and expresses truth. Hence, it should be firm and strongest. Size of shin equals to (Length+width of the container) x 1.5-3 times
2. **Soe:** It is the second important line symbolizes man and expressed body, the human being. Size of soe is 2/3 to 3/4 of shin
3. **Hikae/Tai:** It is the third important line expresses earth. It denotes base and environment. The size of hikae equals to 1/3 to 1/2 of shin



Basic Consideration for Ikebana

1. Minimal use of flowers with natural curves
2. Originating from one point
3. Arrangement should look evolving and rising

Essential Tools or Equipments for Ikebana

1. **Support Material:** Supporting material required for arranging flowers for creating Ikebana in container are 1) Hana Kubari (Cross bar)- It consists of two twigs crisscrossed, tied and fixed in the mouth of the vase. This is generally used for rikka and nageire styles, 2)Kenzan (Pinholder): This is easy to use and arrange flowers for Ikebana. It is used exclusively for Moribana and also for free styles in shallow containers *i.e.* bowls.
2. **The pin holders:** are generally not placed in the centre of the container in the Moribana arrangement unless there is no other way out. In the Moribana arrangement all the materials used must be fixed firmly in the pin-holder. In Nageire, the branches are very often allowed to rest against the wall of the vase by using fixtures.
3. **Shears:** Good shears are most important. They should be sharp enough not to mangle stems. Wipe dry after each use.
4. **Florist wire:** Fine wire is used to tie small bunches of slender stems together and also for making vase support for the branches.
5. **Pebbles and rock:** The pebbles are basically used to conceal kenzan and rock to create scenery effect.
6. **Sprayer:** When plant materials are sprayed with cool water, they will stay fresh longer. Spraying will also revive materials handled too long without water, or those kept in a heated room.

Styles of Ikebana

1. **Moribana:** Arranged in shallow container with the help of pin holders, which are known as '*Kenzan*' in Japanese language
2. **Nageire:** Flowers are arranged in upright and tall containers. Flowers must have sufficient stem length fixed with help of single or split type crossbars also known as '*Hana kubari*'
3. **Jiyubana:** Wood, metal or any other material may be used in addition to flowers
4. **Zeneika:** Straight material with uneven plant heights are used
5. **Zeneibana:** In this style a beautiful sculpture is created using stone, rocks, woods, metal depicting any natural scenery
6. **Morimono:** Fruits, vegetables and flowers can also be arranged in this style looks like 'English flower arrangement'
7. **Free style:** It is believed that line, color, mass and creation of beauty is what Ikebana all about

“IKEBANA IS NOT JUST ABOUT STICKING A FLOWER INTO A VASE: IT IS ABOUT THE LOVE AND NEED OF THE ARTIST TO CREATE BEAUTIFUL FORMS.....IKEBANA IS NOT JUST ABOUT FLOWERS, IT IS ABOUT THE PERSON WHO ARRANGES THEM.”

- **Sofu Teshigahara, Founder of Sogetsu School**

Containers of Used In Ikebana



Different Styles of Ikebana



Upright Moribana



Slanting Moribana



Slanting Nageire



Upright Nageire



Free style

References

- "[Ikebana International](http://www.ikebanahq.org)". www.ikebanahq.org. [Archived](#) from the original on 12 July 2014.
- "[Ikebana International](http://www.ikebanahq.org)". www.ikebanahq.org. [Archived](#) from the original on 17Jan. 2017.
- "www.ikebana-flowers.com"
- "www.ikenobo.jp.com"