

Hello everyone, we have set new records for hot days here! In Kyoto, we had a big typhoon with big floods, followed by very hot days. Over 200 people died in the recent floods in Western Japan. Please stay cool and safe.

Shodo to the World News



I am busy preparing my exhibition in October called “Zen x Creation x Me”. The work to the left is “Aum” (阿吽), the ancient Sanskrit word अह्म meaning beginning and end.

When I chose this profound theme, it felt like a “challenge”. The Zen perspective is well known globally. My thinking changed when I undertook a real experience of Zen. Instead of “challenge” I saw “opportunity”. Please come see my work. The exhibition is on October 6th - 7th at The Museum of Kyoto with my performance to music at 2pm on each day.

Kyoto this Month



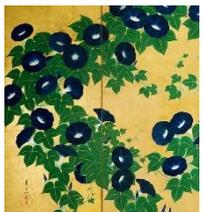
August is “hachigatsu”, the 8th month. It’s also called “hadzuki” (はづき, 葉月), the month of falling leaves.

August is Obon when our ancestors visit our homes. Every year on August 16th we light huge bonfires on 5 mountains around town to send them back to heaven. The fire shapes are: 「大文字」大 (big) character; 「妙法」 the 妙 (mystery) law; 「船形」 船 (ship) shape; 「左大文字」 left

大 (big) character, and 「鳥居形」 the torii gate leading our ancestors back to heaven. As the fires die down in the darkness, we are sad Summer’s spent and anticipate Autumn’s arrival. This grief makes Gozan an emotional event.



On these long hot days we love to eat kakigōri, shaved ice. It can be very elegant, with matcha, red beans and even gold dust. At the many festivals we can buy bright, cheap and cheerful flavours like strawberry, blue hawaii, green apple, melon, cola and so on.



A special flower now is Asagao, Morning Glory. The great tea master Rikyū’s garden was filled with Asagao. The Shogun, Hideyoshi visited. When he arrived, Rikyū had stripped the garden of flowers. Just 1 bloom was displayed in the tea-room. Hideyoshi was impressed. This story shows the heart of tea.



Akemi Chiyomi 新見 ちよみ

This Month's Otehon (copy sheet, おてほん、お手本)

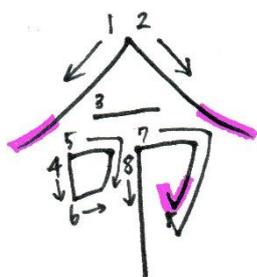
命

いのち

inochi

life, life force

During Obon, we think a lot now about the power of life in all things and the way we are connected through time and distance to all beings. This month's otehon is the character for the life power we carry.



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