

# CALLIGRAPHY SCROLLS FROM THE BGSU ASIAN STUDIES COLLECTION

SHODO 書道 WAY OF WRITING

**October 18 - November 15, 2015**  
**Willard Wankelman Gallery**  
**BGSU Fine Arts Center**

BGSU Galleries is proud to host this exhibition of 30 calligraphy scrolls by contemporary Japanese masters of these traditional arts. Following a 5-year tour sponsored by the Consulate General's Office of Japan in Detroit of 50 calligraphy scrolls by artists belonging to the Shodo Journal Research Center, 30 of the scrolls were donated to the Asian Studies Program at BGSU in March, 2014.

October 18

3-5 pm Opening Reception

featuring a calligraphy demonstration by Michiko Imai

In 1998, Master Calligrapher Michiko Imai was awarded and currently holds a guild license called "Shihan" for teaching both calligraphy and instructing teachers to teach calligraphy. Michiko is among the few to have won multiple category awards in national competitions (Japan). Her work has been displayed at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Osaka Municipal Museum Of Art, Nara City Museum Of Art and Kyoto Municipal Museum Of Art.

Kanji, or Chinese characters, are ideographs. Each Kanji represents a meaning. This writing system is unique in the world. Every Kanji has a "name" and there are about 50,000 of them. There are six ways of writing Kanji, called Rikusho, that range from pictographs to ideographs to phonetic characters.

Calligraphy pursues the beauty of the form of Kanji while observing the schools or styles in which Kanji is written. Traditional Japanese calligraphers use Kana (ancient script) to express energy, tension and spirituality, integrating Japanese literature. Contemporary Japanese Hiragana (using 48 standard Meiji era characters) calligraphy utilizes scattered space, curves, continuous forms, blurring and dry brush to evoke poetic expression. Some avant-garde calligraphy does not even use script, but expresses contemporary Japanese style and innate emotion in abstract form. There is no one way to appreciate calligraphy.

Excerpted from "The Essence of Calligraphy and Japanese Sense of Beauty," 2009, a lecture given at BGSU, by Keiji Onodera, art critic and editor of the Shodo Journal Research Institute, published in the catalogue, "Contemporary Japanese Calligraphy, Vol. 3" that accompanied the tour of the scrolls.

This exhibition is sponsored by the BGSU Asian Studies Program, Fine Arts Center Galleries and Ethnic Cultural Arts Program and the Ohio Arts Council.

