



Naohiro Kasuya, Iemoto  
Ichiyo School of Ikebana  
*“The Free Style of Flowers”*  
Recording of a Live Demonstration for  
Washington, D.C. Chapter #1 (September 2021)  
Video Courtesy of  
Valerie Eccleston, Executive Master, Ichiyo School of Ikebana

### **Demonstration Theme and Information on the Presentation**

In this demonstration Iemoto Kasuya uses his arrangements to show various connections illustrating the importance of us all staying together in some way.

The background music is an original work called ‘Mizu no Rinne’, written for the late Iemoto Akihiro Kasuya by a high school friend. Translated into English it means ‘Cycles of Life’. He considered the music to be the connecting link between the audience, him and the floral material being used. The sound of water is used as a symbolic element to express the cycles of life.

Back stage assistants for the demonstration are: Kazumi Saito (Okinawa Japan), David Williams (Buffalo NY), Jeanne Houlton (St Petersburg Florida), Marilyn Hoskins (Lincoln Nebraska).

This video and its production were funded by Mrs. Valerie Eccleston, Executive Master, Ichiyo School of Ikebana. The I.I. NCAR Advocate Committee thank her for her generosity and spirit of Friendship through Flowers.

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## Biography

**Naohiro Kasuya** was born in Tokyo in 1980, as the second son of Akihiro Kasuya, the third Headmaster of the Ichiyo School. On January 20, 2019, he was installed as fourth generation Headmaster of Ichiyo School of Ikebana.



As well as teaching ikebana, he has been displaying his works solo and at a wide range of exhibitions. He gives ikebana instructions and artistic support for movies and TV programs. Also, he is passionately involved in collaborative works with artists of different fields.

He conducts ‘Ikebana Live’ and workshops not only in Japan but also overseas such as in USA, New Zealand, Australia, India, South Africa and the Ukraine, including an ikebana demonstration at the New York Metropolitan Museum. He hopes these activities overseas would raise the public interest in ikebana outside of Japan, and that he could import the renewed value and interest back to Japan.

In August, 2018, he demonstrated at the Ikebana International Ninth European Regional Conference at Bruges, Belgium. He currently serves as Board member of the Japan Ikebana Art Association; Associate Board Member, Ikebana Association and Supreme Adviser, Ikebana International



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**Containers and Materials List**

<b>1. The first arrangement shows the entrapment most of us have felt during the Covid pandemic.</b>	
<b>Container</b>	<b>Materials</b>
Four black metal grids	Red rope Bamboo poles Castor bean
White, Ichiyo designed, cylindrical containers with large holes	Gloriosa Lilies White Calla Lilies Red Anthurium Yellow Oncidium

<b>2. The wooden frame used in the 2<sup>nd</sup> arrangement is called ‘Tsuitate’ and represents a flat screen TV and shows a progression from isolation to becoming connected electronically by Zoom etc. Also, by vaccination we are able to communicate in person again.</b>	
<b>Container</b>	<b>Materials</b>
Bamboo tubs, wooden frame	Azalea branches Red and pink Celosia Rust colored Chrysanthemums Solidago Sedum



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<b>3. This huge “Bamboo Forest” represents our feelings; spreading and reaching out to others.</b>	
Container	Materials
Tall black metal canister on legs	Tall Bamboo poles Driftwood Old dried vine
Large brown ceramic Suiban	Oak Maple Rhododendron Magnolia branches
Tall Bamboo with cut outs	White and green PG Hydrangeas Yellow Chrysanthemums Pink Asiatic Lilies

<b>4. Thinking about his journey to the USA, bridges were created using huge, split Bamboo with the black ladders, symbolizing the connection of city to city, over rivers and oceans.</b>	
Container	Materials
Two large black metal rectangular Suiban edged with bamboo	Large split Bamboo poles Harry Lauder Walking Stick Variegated Euonymus
Rock like containers	Aucuba Song of India Dracaena Red Ginger
Black wooden ladders	White Snapdragons Orange and red Heliconia



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<b>5. The final arrangement showcases the Ichiyo School way of balance, and Iemoto says that “Life can be Beautiful but Dangerous, so please remember that life needs balance.”</b>	
<b>Container</b>	<b>Materials</b>
Large green Celadon bowl	Bamboo pole
Plexiglass tube	Branch with small Crabapples Camelia branch Solomon’s Seal White Asiatic Lilies Purple Clematis