

Ikebana (Web Text)

Ikebana is the Japanese art of flower arrangement. With emphasis on seasonality, asymmetry, and negative space, *ikebana* practitioners create artistic portrayals of a flower's essence or recreate vast landscapes in a single vessel.

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Since *ikebana* focuses on expressing the seasons, materials used in the arrangements are not limited to perfect flowers in full bloom. Works of *ikebana* expertly capture a specific moment in nature by using everything from new buds to withering leaves. Arrangements are displayed in various venues, such as tea rooms, private residences, hotels, shops, and office buildings.

The *ikebana* practitioners at the Gion Corner: Traditional Arts Performance use seasonal flowers to create an arrangement on stage while musicians play the *koto*. They skillfully assess the qualities of the materials at hand and apply the aesthetic principles of *ikebana* to turn the individual plants and flowers into an elegant work of art.