

## MARCH 2012

### March 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>: “Ode to Tohoku” exhibition of Contemporary Japanese Art in Skoufa Gallery in Kolonaki.

The cultural event was complemented by the simultaneous presentation of Mrs Dina Anastasiadou’s flying cranes of love (Sumi Painting), Mrs Maria Ghisi’s Kokeshi dolls, tokens of love and friendship (Japanese Miniature Art), Mrs Georgia Gremouti’s “Stepping into the light” series of fine art jewellery (Origami) and Mrs Joanna Charitou-Barczyk’s Pine and Bamboo synthesis “Ikebana-Ohara”.

We were honoured by the presence of H.E. Ambassador of India, Madame Ritsuko Toda, spouse of H.E. Ambassador of Japan in Greece and Honorary President of the Greek Ohara Chapter, as well as Counsellor Mr. Susumu Ueda and Mr. Dimos Vratsanos, President of the Greek-Japanese Association.

On the opening day of the exhibition (March 8<sup>th</sup>), the poet Mrs Eyvah T. Dafaranos, spouse of H.E. Ambassador Charalambos Dafaranos, recited her wonderful “Ode to Tohoku”.

Julio Regondi’s “Reverie-Nocturne op. 19” for classical guitar was performed by Mrs Georgia Gremouti.

*“Ode to Tohoku” by  
Mrs Eyvah T. Dafaranos*

*Speech by Counsellor  
Mr. Susumu Ueda*

*“Sumi Painting”  
by Mrs Dina Anastasiadou*



*“Japanese Miniature Art  
by Mrs Maria Ghisi*

*“Jewellery Origami”  
by Mrs Georgia Gremouti*

*“Ikebana-Ohara”  
by Mrs Joanna Charitou Barczyk*



The Ikebana-Ohara arrangement of Mrs Barczyk was accompanied by the following two texts in greek and english beside her arrangement:

“ Go to the pine,  
if you want to learn from the pine,  
and to the bamboo,  
if you want to learn from the bamboo.  
And by doing so,  
make sure you forget yourself.  
Otherwise, you impose yourself  
to the object.  
And you will learn nothing.”

Matsuo Basho  
(1644 – 1694)

From the book  
Poetry and Painting in Japanese Art:  
Basho and “Nozarashi Kiko”  
by Dr. Claire B. Papapavlou “

“ *Courage Japan! Courage Greece!*”

Lands with rich history and culture can sometimes bend  
by chaos but never kneel down and sink into despair.

Japan, Greece. You endure everything with dignity and  
stoicism. You resuscitate from your ashes and look forward  
into the future with pride and optimism.

You resemble the old Pine which hangs over your rocky  
coasts and survive in your weather-beaten mountains.

You resemble the Bamboo too, a plant with a special  
character. Bamboo can be soft but hard. By its straight  
growth, its firm and supple structure, it can be considered  
the symbol of life. Bamboo is shaken by the wind, bends  
in the storm, slants by the weight of snow but it rises up  
again proud and straight.

Joanna Charitou-Barczyk  
Sub Grand Master  
Ohara School of Ikebana, Japan “

**March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012:**

The ladies who participated in the exhibition ***“Ode to Tohoku”*** demonstrated on March 10<sup>th</sup> to the public the various Japanese arts they represent:

From left: Mrs Georgia Gremouti ***Origami*** and Mrs Maria Ghizi ***Netsuke***



Mrs Dina Anastasiadou ***Sumi painting***



Mrs Joanna Charitou-Barczyk demonstrated an ***Ikebana*** arrangement of ***Ohara School*** and presented too the underneath texts which accompanied her Pine and Bamboo Ikebana arrangement for the exhibition.



“ Go to the pine,  
if you want to learn from the pine,  
and to the bamboo,  
if you want to learn from the bamboo.  
And by doing so,  
make sure you forget yourself.  
Otherwise, you impose yourself  
to the object.  
And you will learn nothing.”

Matsuo Basho  
(1644 – 1694)

From the book  
Poetry and Painting in Japanese Art:  
Basho and “Nozarashi Kiko”  
by Dr. Claire B. Papapavlou “

***“ Courage Japan! Courage Greece!”***

Lands with rich history and culture can sometimes bend  
by chaos but never kneel down and sink into despair.

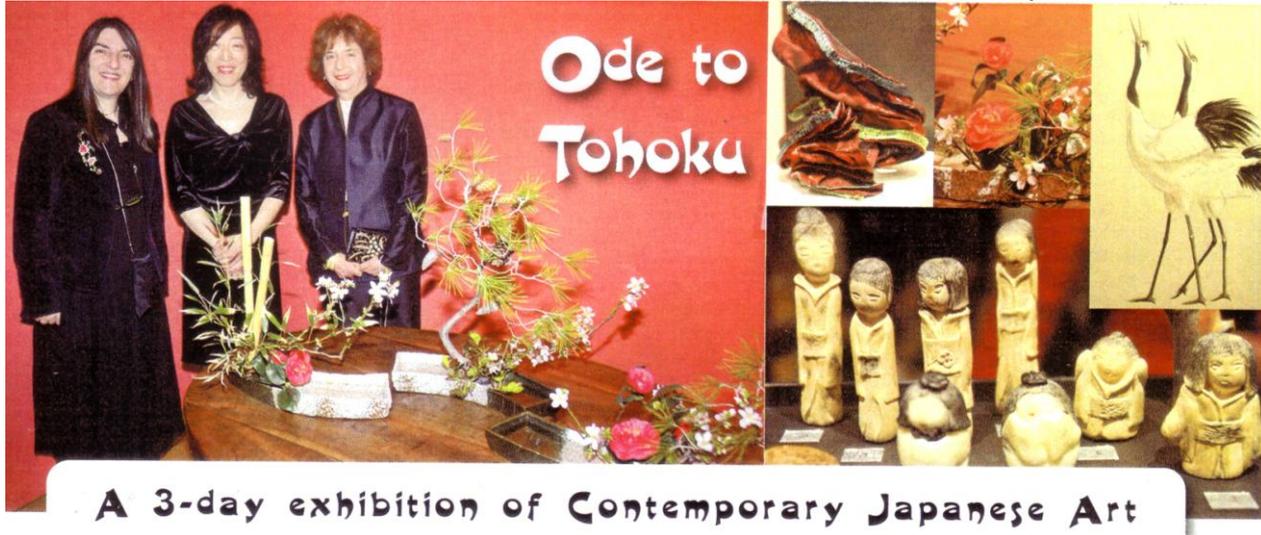
Japan, Greece. You endure everything with dignity and  
stoicism. You resuscitate from your ashes and look forward  
into the future with pride and optimism.

You resemble the old Pine which hangs over your rocky  
coasts and survive in your weather-beaten mountains.

You resemble the Bamboo too, a plant with a special  
character. Bamboo can be soft but hard. By its straight  
growth, its firm and supple structure, it can be considered  
the symbol of life. Bamboo is shaken by the wind, bends  
in the storm, slants by the weight of snow but it rises up  
again proud and straight.

Joanna Charitou-Barczyk  
Sub Grand Master  
Ohara School of Ikebana, Japan “

From left: Mrs Maria Ghizi, Madam Ritsuko Toda, Mrs Joanna Charitou-Barczyk



A year after the great Northeast Japan earthquake, Gallery Skoufa ([www.skoufagallery.gr](http://www.skoufagallery.gr)), in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan in Greece and the Greek-Japanese Association, organized a 3-day exhibition of Contemporary Japanese Art entitled ***"Ode to Tohoku"***. Due to its great success, the exhibition curated by the sculptor Maria Ghizi, was extended by a further week, until March 17<sup>th</sup>.

As a tribute to the victims of the great disaster, the cultural event was aimed at transmitting hope and courage, whilst at the same time expanding upon the knowledge of Japanese art and culture (contemporary expression based on tradition) in Greece.

The cultural event was complemented by the simultaneous presentation of Dina Anastasiadou's flying cranes of love (Sumi Painting), Joanna Charitou-Barczyk's pine-tree & bamboo synthesis (Ikebana), Maria Ghizi's Kokeshi dolls, tokens of love and friendship (Japanese Miniature Art), and Georgia Gremouti's "Stepping into the light" series of fine art jewellery (Origami).

On the opening day of the exhibition (March 8<sup>th</sup>), the poet Mrs Eyvah T. Dafaranos, wife of his Excellency, Ambassador Charalambos Dafaranos, read her "Ode to Tohoku" which was especially written for the occasion.

The Chairman of the Greek-Japanese Association, Dimos Vratsanos also shared his knowledge on sake.

Whilst Julio Regondi's Reverie-Nocturne op. 19 for classical guitar, was played by the visual artist-musician Georgia Gremouti. Adding a taste from Japan, sushi from the Kiku Restaurant, Japanese sweets from Soya and sake from Alios AE was offered during the opening day.



From left: H.E. Ambassador Topden  
Mrs Eyvah T. Dafaranos  
Mr Yiannis Kalligas (Skoufa Gallery)  
Japanese Counsellor Mr Susumu Ueda  
Mrs Maria Ghizi  
Mrs Dina Anastasiadou



From left: Mr Dimos Vratsanos  
Mrs Georgia Gremouti  
Mrs Joanna Charitou-Barczyk  
Mrs Eyvah T. Dafaranos  
Mrs Maria Ghizi  
Mrs Dina Anastasiadou