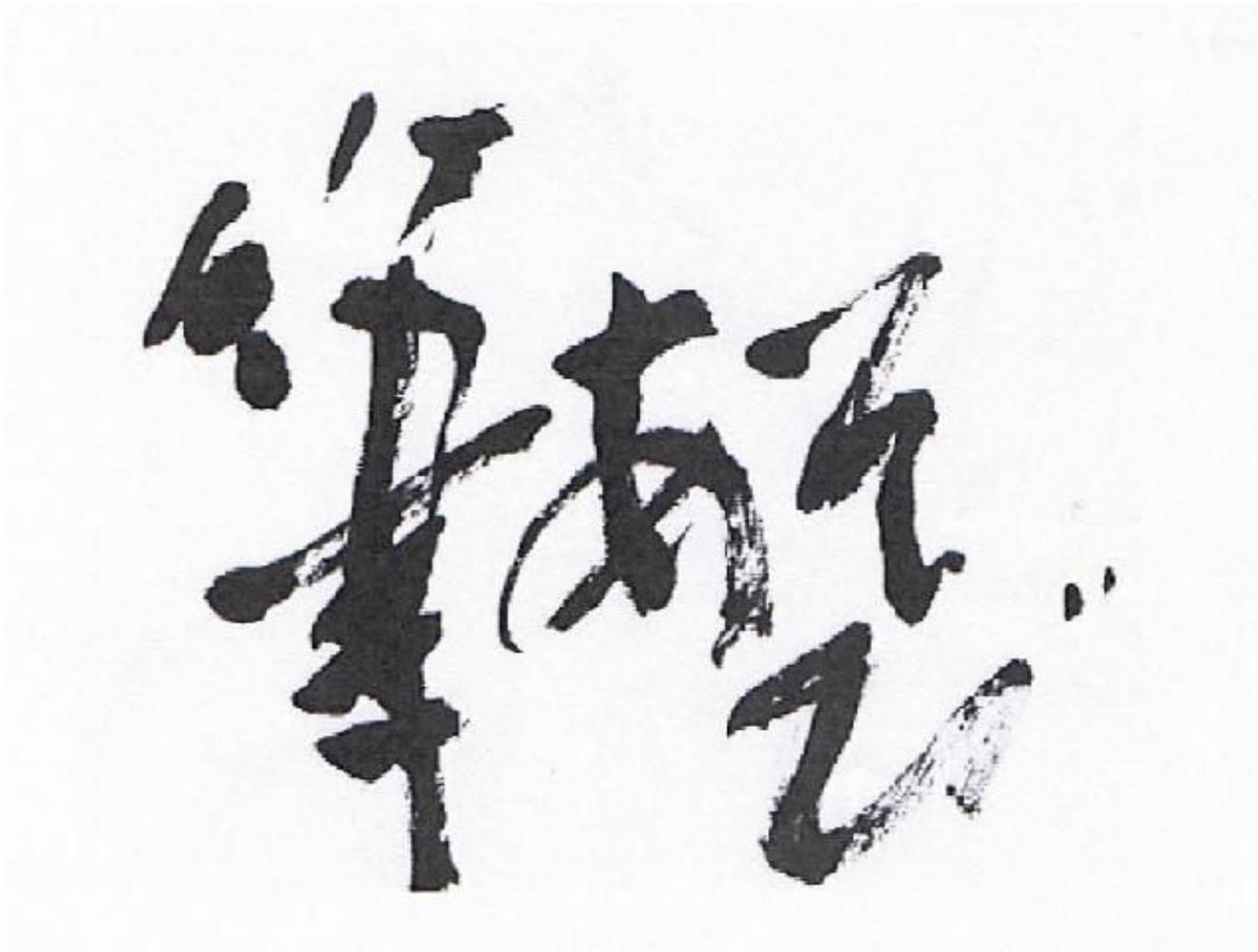


International Exchange



Naniwa Shodo

Various Types of International Exchange

Cultural exchange through Japanese calligraphy

The Naniwa Shodo Association has long been active in promoting the art of *sho* (Japanese calligraphy) across various fields.

Among these activities, "international exchange" has been taken up by our president, Eishi Sakuta, as one of his life's works.

At universities and other venues across the country, Mr. Sakuta provides instruction on *sho* that is geared toward non-Japanese.



For many students from overseas and foreign nationals living in Japan, calligraphy is a part of Japanese culture that they would like to experience.

At the Naniwa Shodo Association, rather than simply teaching basic penmanship skills such as *tome* (stop) and *hane* (upward brushstroke), we first teach students how **one line** can embody various expressions, and let them use their entire bodies to write rhythmically.

Japan's unique use of **kanji** (Chinese characters).

Many people from countries outside of Japan find *kanji* to be both mysterious and fascinating.

While understanding the origin and meaning of each individual *kanji*, the impression of the character may be expressed through various types of lines.

Each time, we present classes which excite interest even in Japanese participants.



"Brush Play"

At the Naniwa Shodo Association, we regularly offer a casual "Brush Play" workshop.

(Many of our participants come with friends, and of course, many Japanese also attend.)

Taught by active members of the Association, these workshops provide a chance for students to receive authentic



One can hardly think such bold and impressive brushwork comes from beginners! The workshops provide a fun and stimulating experience for the teachers as well.



Breaking the language barrier, time flies by when students bring friends to participate! In this kind of exchange, the art of *sho* serves



as a cultural bond.



Naniwa Shodo Exhibition International Exchange Day

Every year, we offer an International Exchange Day at the Naniwa Shodo Exhibition (※1).

(※1 75th anniversary in 2010 at the Osaka Municipal Museum of Art)

Explanations of works at shodo exhibitions are often directed toward those involved in Japanese calligraphy, and so it is quite rare that we offer commentary aimed at non-Japanese residents on these occasions.



The perspectives of Japanese and those involved in calligraphy, and the views of people from various countries with an interest in Japan.

"I can't feel any life in the strokes." "The use of space is uninteresting." Sharp points that often hit home are elicited from participants, and straight yet honest opinions can be heard.



Japanese/Non-Japanese Collaboration

Just look at these works, created freely and spontaneously.

These are truly works born of "exchange."



The feeling of going all out and writing on a huge piece of paper can't be matched.

A Variety of Exhibits • Explanations of Works

We already have a proven track record of conducting international exchange at various calligraphy exhibitions.

As the foremost figure in such exchange, Naniwa Shodo Association President Sakuta delivers explanations that are easy to understand for both Japanese and non-Japanese listeners, and his witty commentary is met with smiles and acclaim.



(Mainichi Modern Calligraphy - Representative Works from Kansai Exhibition, Jan. 2010)

The international exchange activities through *sho* as advocated by Mr. Sakuta have gradually increased in scope, reaching the point where such exchange can be achieved regardless of the school of calligraphy involved.

"I am delighted at the remarkable achievements that have been made recently," says Mr. Sakuta.

"I think it would be wonderful if these achievements continue to expand, not only through the Naniwa Shodo Association, but through cooperation with other like-minded individuals who practice calligraphy as well."



Non-Japanese, proudly writing *kanji* with brush and ink. They have prepared by properly learning the characters' meanings.

Amazing...the characters have fully come into being on the paper!





(Same exhibition as above)