



M I N G E I

A N A R T R E T R E A T

I N J A P A N

with **Monica Dengo** and **Satsuki Hatsushima**

Kalo Alpe, Kama, South Japan



Are you looking for a meditative art retreat in a country of millennial traditions? This is the workshop for you!

We will be immersed in the quiet deep beauty of Southern Japan, in the middle of the countryside, surrounded by rice paddles and mountains, exploring mark making in Japanese culture, calligraphy and folk arts such as paper making and pottery.

Arrival date: May 20, 2023

Departure date: May 28, 2023

'Pattern is the essence of beauty, form reduced to its primary elements'
Soetsu Yanagi

We'll experience the bond between mark, breath and our need to make marks. Mark making is the 'materia prima' of all written communication, in every form and in the infinites relations between orality and writing. We will investigate the 'ductus', the physical actions that regulate writing in every culture, and in particular we will look at the ductus in Japanese and Italian calligraphy.

During the whole week we'll give special attention to the development of patterns in Japanese culture and folk art (Mingei). The originator of the Mingei movement, Yanagi Soetsu (1889-1061) about 90 years ago traveled around Japan visiting people doing various kinds of handwork and published information about them in magazines and elsewhere. He evolved a theory of why certain objects made by unknown craftsmen were so beautiful, and became the founder of the Japanese folk crafts (Mingei) movement. We will be located in Kama city, in the Fukuoka prefecture. The event will be an immersion into calligraphic and design culture.



Students will have the opportunity to make an artist book in a beautiful classroom, open at any time of day and night. There will be two special artisan's days: one in Koishiwara, a small pottery village in the mountains where we'll learn how to make marks on ceramic in Taketoshi Oota pottery studio, and one in Akizuki, another village in the mountains where we'll learn the process of making washi (Japanese paper) and we'll make our own paper. Students will also learn how to paste Japanese paper on Western paper, using traditional Japanese techniques. During the week we will experience several mark making meditative exercises using calligraphic techniques and we'll keep a sort of visual diary of our art experiences.

We'll also visit the Entsu ji temple and the Umami Shrine, take walks and participate in a tea ceremony. At the end of the retreat we will exhibit all our artist books at the Kaho Alpe's lobby.

Class times

Normal class time will be 9:30am to 4:30pm

Students can also stay in the classroom in the evening.

Maximum number of participants: 16



Location and accommodation

We will live and work at Kaho Alpe.

Here students will have their accommodation in single or double rooms and will have access to a beautiful large classroom, open at any time during day and night.

Meals

Meals will be at Kaho Alpe, at a local fish restaurant and with bentos.

The breakfast is vegan food with fresh local vegetables.

Mr Kazuo Nawata, the cook at Kaho Alpe, can manage any food allergy request.

Their motto is “Everybody in the world can eat at the same table!”

Mr Nawata uses no chemical seasonings, being concerned for the Earth, not only for human being.



Fee, deposit and registration:

First contact Monica at ciao@monicadengo.com to know if there are spaces available and to receive additional information.

FEE

Cost is Yen 280000 (twohundredeightythousand)

Deposit due date is December 15, 2022

Final payment is February 28, 2023

Fee includes:

- Accommodation in Kaho Alpe*
- All meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- Lessons in a classroom open exclusively for us 24/7
- Visits and workshops in Akizuki and Koishiwara
- all the course's materials.

* Accommodation is in double rooms, if you wish single room there will be an additional fee of yen 20000 (twentythousand).

See Terms and Conditions:

Your place on the workshop is confirmed with full payment. Due to the logistics, people and places involved, these events are non-refundable.

Please ensure you are suitably insured.

We look forward to be together with you in Japan!

Monica and Satsuki



For more information and subscription, contact:

Monica Dengo at ciao@monicadengo.com