



For Immediate Release

**Discover the ancient art of Japanese floral arranging
Ikebana International #160 Exhibit is at Naples Botanical Garden February 7–8**

NAPLES, FL – January 21, 2020 – A Japanese floral art form, contemporary in flavor but ancient in origin, will be on full display at Naples Botanical Garden from 8 a.m.–5p.m. Feb. 7–8.

See the Possibilities, the annual exhibit of Ikebana International #160-Naples, celebrates its namesake tradition of floral arranging, a practice steeped in symbolism and cultural heritage. With 80 members, Naples has one of the largest Ikebana International chapters in the United States, and the annual exhibit at the Garden is the biggest display of the art form in the region.

In some cases, ikebana is as much a feat of engineering as it is design. Unlike western arrangements in tall vases, ikebana enthusiasts assemble natural materials in shallow or unusually shaped containers and create sculpture-like arrangements using concealed wire, tape and *kenzan*, a small object that keeps the stems in place. The displays in some styles evoke landscapes, others represent the bonds between “man,” “earth,” and “heaven,” and some even mix unconventional materials with natural blooms. In all cases, practitioners learn to accentuate the distinctiveness of each blossom, leaf or stem in their designs.

The first of ikebana’s five primary “schools,” Ikenobo, was established in 1462, and the practice has continued to evolve over the centuries. Ikebana took root in the United States in the mid-1950s, thanks to an American, Ellen Gordon Allen, who had studied the art while living in Japan and founded Ikebana International to share what she’d learned and inspire others to develop “Friendship Through Flowers.” The organization today has 6,200 members worldwide, with about 2,500 in the United States.

Exhibit attendees can learn about general design principles and explore the different schools of ikebana. On both days, demonstrations will occur hourly between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., with a traditional Japanese tea ceremony at 1 p.m.

Reporters interested in learning more about ikebana, its local practitioners and the show at Naples Botanical Garden are invited to contact Ikebana International’s Stephanie English at ikebananaples@gmail.com or Jenny Fuentes, content manager for Naples Botanical Garden at 239.315.7289 or jfuentes@naplesgarden.org. Media outlets wishing to attend the event are asked to contact Jenny Fuentes in advance.

About Naples Botanical Garden

Naples Botanical Garden is a 170-acre, world-class garden paradise that features plants from around the world. The Garden provides arts, culture, youth and adult education, conservation, wellness, and volunteer programs that contribute to the quality of life in Southwest Florida. The Garden's living collections are always growing and evolving, leaving our audiences with a deeper engagement with our curated gardens and Preserve, broadened with every visit. Regular hours of operation are 8 a.m.–5 p.m. every day, with the Berger Shop in the Garden and Fogg Café opening at 9 a.m. Regular admission is \$19.95 for adults, \$9.95 for children (4–14); Members and children 3 and under get in free.