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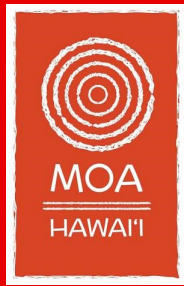
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Aloha Everyone,

This month's theme is "Art and Beauty."

Mokichi Okada said:

"In human beings, it is the beauty of the mind—that is, beauty of the spirit. Of course, there must also be beauty of words and conduct. This is individual beauty. The expansion of individual beauty produces social beauty. That is, relationships between people become beautiful. People's homes will also become beautiful; streets, transportation facilities, and parks will become more beautiful as well. It is a matter of course that this beauty will be accompanied by purity. On a large scale; politics, education, and economic relations will become more beautiful and pure. As a result, international diplomacy must also be beautified." (June 3, 1950)

"The creation of paradise starts with you. You have to become a paradise first. It is impossible to turn your home or surroundings into a paradise instantly, but you can turn your own heart into a paradise, and that is the starting point. After that, your family will become a paradise, then the whole country, and eventually the whole world. So first of all, your heart should become a paradise." (February 25, 1952)

Mokichi Okada had a firm belief that the ideal world of eternal peace should be filled with perfect truth and virtue, and he especially invested his energy to cultivate art and cultural activities. In promoting his belief, the MOA Museum of Art in Atami, Japan has been holding exhibitions of outstanding artworks centered on Japanese art, and encouraging traditional Japanese performing arts. They have been working in promoting many other art and cultural activities, educational and charitable programs such as flower arrangements, *cha-no-yu* tea ceremonies, and stage performances.

The MOA Museum of Art Children's Painting Contest and Exhibition is a program that was started with the wish for children to think and learn about the value of life and 'mental enrichment' through their creative activities in their everyday lives. The museum has been working on this program nationally and internationally with families, districts, and schools. MOA believes that with individuals who share the same wish or views for children, working hand in hand, the ideal society of 'truth, virtue, and beauty' would emerge.

Please support this year's Children's Painting Exhibitions by volunteering at one of the district shows. For information or to volunteer, please call Roy Goshi-Otaguro at 222-2031.

Norman Oshiro
Executive Director

Salvation through Beauty

Roy Goshi-Otaguro

MOA Arts and Culture Program Manager

As a man was passing the elephants, he suddenly stopped, confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg. No chains, no cages. It was obvious that the elephants could, at any time, break away from their bonds but for some reason, they did not.

He saw a trainer nearby and asked why these animals just stood there and made no attempt to get away. "Well," trainer said, "when they are very young and much smaller we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free."

The man was amazed. These animals could at any time break free from their bonds but because they believed they couldn't, they were stuck right where they were.

Like the elephants, how many of us go through life hanging onto a belief that we cannot do something, simply because we failed at it once before?

Failure is part of learning; we should never give up the struggle in life. (The Elephant Rope)

I was asked about *Salvation through Beauty*. After much thought, I decided that it is the work of Mokichi Okada steering us to do his work. And in this case, working through his Art and Culture Enterprise—Beauty. It is not often easy to figure out what that work is, or what Okada has in store for us.

This year is the 29th year of the MOA Museum of Art Children's Painting Contest and Exhibition. The Hilo district is already asking for the mats and prizes for their event. In a very short time you may be called upon to help in some way for this event. You may be asking yourself, "Is this really important enough to get involved? Is Okada really behind this?"

Well, let's look at this Children's Painting Contest that the MOA Museum has been putting on every year since 1989. In that first year, it started out very small with a few thousand entries with only Hawaii at first and followed by Argentina the next year for entries from overseas countries. Well, now it has grown to nearly a half a million entries each year with 13 countries involved. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education of Japan, as well as many other national agencies,

have been involved each year for the longest time. In Brazil, one of the cities has taken the lead sponsorship in this contest and MOA is in a supporting role. In Argentina, the contest is held at the nation's capital. Last year there were 471 exhibitions throughout Japan, and 31 outside of Japan. In many cases, the paintings are also displayed in hospitals because it is healing in nature. In Chiba, it was displayed in their prison. In Japan, 9,278 elementary schools participated; that is 41.3 percent of all the elementary schools in Japan. Yes, in Japan and other parts of the world, this MOA Children's Painting Contest has come a long way. Okada had to have been behind all this to orchestrate such growth and acceptance by outside organizations.

Here in Hawaii, we also came a long way. We were involved since the first contest in 1989. I will not say that Okada was behind our initial years of the painting contest. That first year there were only a handful of entries from Maui, but the painting of Jessica Oshiro, Executive Director Norman Oshiro's daughter, was selected and exhibited in Japan. It was like that for a few more years, although the numbers grew to the hundreds, it was only the entries I could generate by visiting schools myself. Then, we began the MOA Branch System, working in the district. I finally began to sense Okada behind us.

Ivan Kawamoto first came up with the idea of having the exhibitions with Purifying Therapy, Flowers, Tea and Nature Farming display at the district event. Windward Mall was the first, which became a model for other districts to follow. We approached the Pearlridge Center to hold the Leeward exhibition there. The marketing director turned us down because incorporating the three enterprises of Flowers, Tea, Purifying Therapy and Nature Farming involved water, which would be hazardous. Taking this to heart, I left for Japan to witness the opening of the *Kohrin no Michi*. Okada said, "When this tunnel is built, obstructions will fall away." I reflected about the problem with Pearlridge. When I returned home, I learned that the marketing director had quit while I was in Japan. When I met the new director, she was so open to what we wanted to do, including the Flowers, Tea, Purifying Therapy and Nature Farming display. Okada was beginning to show himself. The exhibition and awards ceremony went on without any problems. The Monday after everything was finished, I returned to Pearlridge to thank the marketing director. I was standing in the back of her as she talked to the manager of Pearlridge pointing to the Sunday newspaper in his hand. "Look at this!

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Windward Mall and Kahala Mall have all these health programs, tai chi exercise, and walking. What is PearlrIDGE going to do?" At that point she turned around and asked me, "Roy don't you have Purifying Therapy?" So, that's how the Children's Painting Exhibition led to practicing the wellness program at the PearlrIDGE Center every second and fourth Monday since that year. From the beginning, people were led to us, and we received validations one after another, including Kelly Akiyama, a new born stricken with congenital heart disease and Kawasaki syndrome. The Aiea-Pearl City Network visited that child every day. This was a Healthy Life Network model which produced results that astonished her doctors and guided the whole family to receive their pendants and become the first regular patients of the new wellness center on Young Street. Kelly is now grown, is healthy, and received her pendant last year.



Nagaoka City Children's Painting Exhibition

Now, Okada is working in the new phase of creating Healthy Communities—working with local legislators and other organizations and religions. Last year during the Honolulu Festival, MOA members from the Nagaoka Sister City, visited the MOA Wellness Center. Miss Naruse, who headed the team, noticed the Children's Paintings on display. She suggested that we have an exchange, so this last October, six Best of Show paintings from Hawaii were also displayed at the children's painting exhibition in Nagaoka. Through their mayor, Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell selected a painting from the Nagaoka entries for the Honolulu Mayor's Award for the Nagaoka City Children's Painting Exhibition held at the Niigata Prefectural Museum of Art. Okada talked about an international art exchange to promote peace. The whole reason for Nagaoka being a sister city with Honolulu is that Nagaoka was the hometown of Admiral Yamamoto, the leader of the Japanese sneak attack of Pearl

Harbor. Nagaoka sought Honolulu to promote peace and have shared the fireworks display every year since. We can see that Okada is again orchestrating this scenario using the Children's Painting Exhibition. At our State Exhibition, 19 paintings from Nagaoka City will also be displayed with Hawaii's district winners.

As I tried to explain, this children's exhibition in Hawaii started on Maui with just me doing everything from teaching kids to paint, collecting the paintings from the schools and displaying them. Do you remember when over 500 paintings were displayed at the Amfac Building or the juried show at Honolulu Hale? Honolulu Hale was done twice. Doesn't anyone here remember those events? No? Of course not, because you all were not involved. There were no validations then. Okada remained hidden because it was only an activity that got done and done by one person.

It was only from the time the districts got involved, members got involved, many of you here today gladly stepped up to the plate and helped make the MOA district painting exhibitions a showcase of the wellness program, starting with the Healthy Life Networks tied to the Wellness Center, that is when Okada showed his presence. That is also when the State-level painting exhibition started at the Honolulu Museum at Linekona Art School Gallery. Today, we are holding our exhibitions at Prince Kuhio Shopping Plaza in Hilo, Kahala Mall, Ward Warehouse, Windward Mall, Queen Ka'ahumanu Shopping Center in Maui, PearlrIDGE Center and ending with the State Exhibit at the Linekona Art School Gallery at the Honolulu Museum.

Please understand that the more you all get involved and the more you invite others to get involved, Okada can truly work through us thereby making *Salvation through Beauty* a reality. As many of you get more active, something may not go right. You might feel rejected. And if things don't go your way at first, remember the elephant. Don't be like an elephant with the rope around his ankle, giving up after being rejected. Okada can cut that rope, just like at PearlrIDGE. If we gave up after they told us "no" the first time like the elephant, none of this would have happened. So, please get involved with your networks, improve your means of salvation, your Purifying Therapy certification, and Art Advocate and Natural Food certification. And, don't try to do things yourself like me. Invite others to get involved. That is when you will sense the presence of Okada, and witness *Salvation through Beauty*.

MOA MUSEUM OF ART RENEWAL OPENING



The MOA Museum of Art in Atami, Japan reopened on February 4 after extensive renovation. During the 11-month renovation, the lobby, exhibition galleries and museum shop were substantially remodeled, and a new organic cafe station opened in the lobby. The designs for the new spaces and the furnishings in the shop were provided by New Material Research Laboratory (NMRL), led by contemporary artist and architect Hiroshi Sugimoto and architect Tomoyuki Sakakida. At the newly renovated gallery, viewers can enjoy the artworks through the high transparent glass featuring an anti-reflective optical interference coating without being bothered with reflection of the exhibition display glass showcases. Black plaster is used on the walls facing the display case so nothing reflects on the glass case.

Commemorating the reopening of the museum, the display included — *Seascapes: Atami* from Mr. Hiroshi Sugimoto's iconic Seascapes series; one of his video works, *Accelerated Buddha*; and the three National Treasures: the screens *Red and White Plum Blossoms*, a representative work of Ogata Kōrin; the *Tea Jar with a Wisteria Design*, a masterpiece of Nonomura Ninsei; and the calligraphy album *Kanbokujo*.

MOA Hawaii Children's Painting Exhibits and Award Ceremonies

HILO: Prince Kuhio Shopping Plaza: Exhibit/Awards Ceremony on Saturday, March 25; Exhibit from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; Awards Ceremony at 11:00 a.m.

EAST OAHU: Kahala Mall: Exhibit – April 7-9; Awards Ceremony on Saturday, April 8, at 10:00 a.m.

HONOLULU: Ward Warehouse: Exhibit – April 14-15; Awards Ceremony on Saturday, April 15, at 10:00 a.m.

MAUI: Queen Ka'ahumanu Center: Exhibit/Awards Ceremony on Saturday, April 22, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

WINDWARD OAHU: Windward Mall: Exhibit – April 28-30; Awards Ceremony on Saturday, April 29, at 10:00 a.m.

LEEWARD/CENTRAL OAHU: Pearlridge Center Uptown Mall: Exhibit – May 5-7; Awards Ceremony on Saturday, May 6, at 10:00 a.m.

STATE EXHIBITION AND OPENING CEREMONY: Linekona Art School Gallery: Exhibit – May 27-June 1; Opening Ceremony on Saturday, May 27, at 10:00 a.m. (All "Best of Show" paintings from Hawaii and paintings from the MOA Museum of Art international competition and MOA Nagaoka will be displayed.)



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