



ARTIST PROFILE

SAYUMI MATSUBARA

松原 サユミ

A soul in every stroke.

Calligraphy meant to reach the heart.

SAYUMI-MATSUBARA.COM



Sayumi Matsubara

JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHER

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PROFILE

Profile

略歴

Sayumi Matsubara holds advanced teaching certifications in Japanese calligraphy and has received numerous awards at Japan's four major calligraphy exhibitions as well as various national competitions. In addition to her original calligraphic works, she undertakes a wide range of commissions, including store logos, official certificates, and ceremonial inscriptions. Her aim is to create something that is approachable and a joy to watch — brushed with both hands or four brushes at once, even on roof tiles and lanterns — in search of characters that reach the heart.

She is also certified in the traditional Japanese arts of flower arrangement (kadō), tea ceremony (sadō), and kimono dressing (kitsuke), and possesses deep knowledge of Japanese cultural traditions in their entirety. Calligraphy, in her view, is one part of a single culture that extends to gesture, setting, and the reading of the seasons.

She currently directs her own calligraphy classroom, passing the art on to the next generation, while accepting commissions from Important Cultural Property facilities and many other clients.

CREDENTIALS

Certifications

資格・免許

- Japanese calligraphy teacher licence
- Japanese calligraphy instructor (shihan) licence
- Jury-exempt (mukansa) status
- Certificate calligrapher (shōjō-shoshi) licence
- Flower arrangement (kadō)
- Tea ceremony (sadō)
- Kimono dressing (kitsuke) licence

Four separate teaching and instructor licences in calligraphy.

Awards & Activity

受賞・活動

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- Sankei International Calligraphy Exhibition — Special Selection (Tokusen) at her first entry in 2022 and again in 2023, the Special Award (Kaiyū Award) in 2024, and elevation to jury-exempt mukansa status in 2025
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- Special Awards at the Kōyasan Calligraphy Competition (Kongōbu-ji) — Nanzan Award 2022, Special Award 2023, Kōyasan Head Administrator's Award 2024, Nanzan Award 2025
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- Special Awards at the Ise Jingū World Heritage Calligraphy Exhibition — an award at every entry: Sūkeikai Chairman's Award 2024; Exhibition Chair's Award and Ise Mayor's Award 2025
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- Special Selection at the Kumano National Calligraphy Exhibition. Mukansa status at both the Seichō Calligraphy Association National Exhibition (Japan Educational Calligraphy Research Association Award, Encouragement Award) and the Kainan City Art Exhibition (Governor's, Mayor's and City Council Chair's Awards); and many others
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- Exhibited widely — Yomiuri Shohō Exhibition, Nihon Shogeiin National Exhibition, Seichō Calligraphy Association National Exhibition, NHK Gakuen National Exhibition, the International Exchange Art Exhibition (Xi'an, China), the Wakayama Prefectural and City Exhibitions and the Tōzai Exhibition; Sankei works shown at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Osaka City Museum of Fine Arts, Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art and the National Art Center, Tokyo
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- Brushed the title and poster calligraphy for Meiboku Sendai Hagi, the 390th-anniversary production (2026, Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre) of Yūki-za, the marionette theatre founded in 1635 under the official sanction of the Edo shogunate
-
- Performs live calligraphy regularly at Wakayama Castle; brushed the stage title for the Japan Wakayama International Music Festival on paper roughly nine metres wide
-
- Brushed the title of the film Colour in the Rain — Dragon Beyond the Clouds, a collaboration with sumi-e artist Shū Arakawa
-
- Featured four times in the Japan-US-Russia art magazine 365 Art+ Magazine and in LUMINA magazine; works displayed on a digital billboard in Los Angeles
-
- Supervised the collaborative product line Maihime — perfume, hand soap, shampoo & treatment, and hair oil — sold in limited runs at Daimaru Tokyo

COMMISSION

Commissions

ご依頼について

酒 STYLISH	力 POWERFUL	意 DESIGN	古 CLASSICAL
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From stylish modern lettering to classical forms. Not only on paper, but on wooden signboards, noren, roof tiles, lanterns and glass. Shop logos, titles, certificates, naming scrolls — even overseas names rendered in kanji — each brushed after thinking together about what kind of characters will reach the heart.

SELECTED COMMISSIONS

— Important Cultural Property facilities	— Temple & shrine signboards
— Graduation certificates	— Shrine origins & donation lists
— Official certificates	— Offering boxes
— Ceremony programs	— Film, stage & anniversary titles
— Shop & company signboards and logos	— Naming works, nameplates & banners
— Roofing-ceremony calligraphy	— Event & festival titles
— Family trees	— Picture-book, poetry & exhibition titles
— Noren curtains	— Product & label calligraphy
— Business-card names	— Gift envelopes & registers
— Wedding addressing	— YouTube & music-festival titles, and more
— Election victory & thanks	

What I Take On

承っていること

I used to think it was enough to write things that would last long after me — the inscriptions commissioned by Important Cultural Properties and shrines. Lately I would rather be remembered not for the things, but for my words, my heart, and the care I take.

From her Instagram

01 Signboards, Noren & Logos

Characters brushed on paper for a woodcarver to cut, or brushed directly onto a 1.5-metre board. From the signboard and noren to business cards, staff uniforms and flyers — the whole face of a shop or company, as one set.

02 Titles — Stage, Film, Events, Books & Products

Posters for anniversary productions, film titles, the stage banner of a music festival, picture-book and poetry covers, product labels. I ask what kind of characters would make you want to look, then search for the ones that belong to that world.

03 Certificates, Diplomas & Programs

As a licensed certificate calligrapher I have brushed diplomas for kindergartens through junior high schools and commendations for a fire department — several hundred at a time when needed. Ceremony programs and lecture titles as well.

04 Naming Scrolls, Nameplates, Envelopes & Addressing

A naming scroll for a newborn, on hanging-scroll paper, in gold ink, or on shikishi board. Nameplates, gift envelopes and registers, wedding addressing, roof-raising calligraphy and family trees — the characters that mark the turning points of a life.

05 Shrines, Temples & Cultural Properties

The origin inscription of an Important Cultural Property on a 20-kilogram board; shrine offices and offering boxes; donor lists running past 800 names. Things meant to remain long after us, brushed with all my heart.

06 Your Name in Kanji

Names written in the Roman alphabet, rendered into kanji and brushed. At Wakayama Castle I write visitors' names from overseas on the spot, and a poetry collection from Peru carries my title calligraphy. Commissions from abroad are welcome by e-mail.

07 Live Calligraphy (Performance)

Brushes in both hands, a ten-metre sheet, a single breath. At Wakayama Castle I perform regularly, writing visitors' names as part of the show. For festivals, events, ceremonies and openings — sho written without trying to write well, only with an empty mind.

08 Calligraphy Classes

I run a calligraphy class for children up to elementary-school age. Every year my students win at school competitions and the central exhibitions. Calligraphy that is not stiff but approachable and a joy to watch — together with the children.

HOW A COMMISSION WORKS

01 Enquiry

Tell me the purpose, the words you have in mind, the size or surface, and when you need it — by the form below or by e-mail. It is fine if some of this is still undecided.

02 Consultation

We think through the style together — stylish, powerful, design or classical — and the surface, and I send you an estimate.

03 Brushing

Brushed with a soul in every stroke. For naming scrolls and the like, you can choose among several treatments — scroll paper, gold ink or shikishi board.

04 Delivery

The original is handed over or shipped. For signboards and products, I can also prepare the work for carving or printing.

Fees are quoted according to the content, size, surface and number of pieces. Consultation and estimates are free of charge.

WORKS

Selected Works

作品



舞姫

Maihime



愛

Ai



龍

Ryū



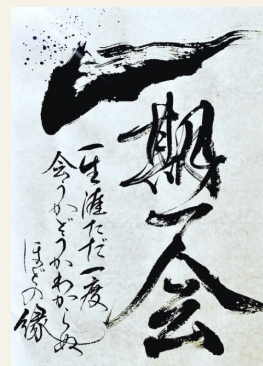
漢詩（会友賞）

Kanshi



游雲驚竜

Yūun Kyōryū



一期一会

Ichigo Ichie

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The latest works and commissions are shown on the site.

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