



### **Class: Hina Matsuri Ikebana**

Time: 1pm (90mins) Language: English/Japanese Tickets: \$55 (exclude Flower Arrangement Frog & Vase )

Max number: 8 person Max (all ages) Instructor: Asae Takahashi

Creating Ohara school of Ikebana (Japanese Style Flower Arrangement) for celebrating Hina Matsuri

### **What is it?**

March 3 is Hina Matsuri (Doll Festival or Girls' Festival), when people pray for the happiness and healthy growth of girls. Families with young daughters mark this day by setting up a display of dolls inside the house. They offer rice crackers and other food to the dolls. The main feature of this celebration is a set of dolls, called hina ningyo, which represent the emperor, empress, and members of their court. The dolls are dressed in traditional court wear from the Heian Era (794 to roughly 1185), with the empress donning an impressive costume called juuni hitoe (twelve-layered ceremonial robe). Depending on the number of pieces, the dolls are arranged on five- or seven-tiered platforms, with the emperor and empress positioned at the top. Three ladies-in-waiting sit on the second tier, five male musicians on the third, two ministers with trays of food on the fourth, and three guards on the fifth. The sixth and seventh tiers are decorated with household ornaments and carriages. Families display the dolls at home in February and pack them away the evening of March 3. Superstition dictates that if the dolls are left out after March 4, the daughters will marry late in life.

Asae, a graduate from Kunitachi music college enjoyed her childhood spending time learning Ballet, Piano and Opera singing before becoming a successful choreographer and performer in Tokyo. As a result, she had multiple successful artistic partnerships with popular artists from Sony Entertainment, Warner Music, RCA Records, Victor Entertainment. After graduating from NYU's Master of Arts program a second career in marketing with a Japanese trading company began. However, after seven years in the professional business world she made a decision to make another change. After living in NYC for ten years and returning to Japan for two years, Asae now the mother of two, recognized the importance of ethical education for children and the deep connection of ethics to many Japanese cultural activities. As a certified instructor of "Ohara School of Ikebana", she delivers Ikebana classes at her NY based ethical after school program "Zenshow Jyuku".