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SUMINAGASHI EXHIBITION BY AMY LEE SEGAMI

Born to a deposed family in the wake of the Communist Revolution in China, Segami escaped with her mother to join her father in Hong Kong. Being disciplined to study science and mathematics during high school, she completed both her B.S. and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, with an emphasis in Fluid Mechanics. After working in the industry for several years: solving manufacturing problems, improving products and registering several inventions, she turned her unfulfilled creativity to the study of traditional arts of Japan, including Sumi (ink painting), Cha-no-yu (tea ceremony) and Ikebana (flower arrangement).

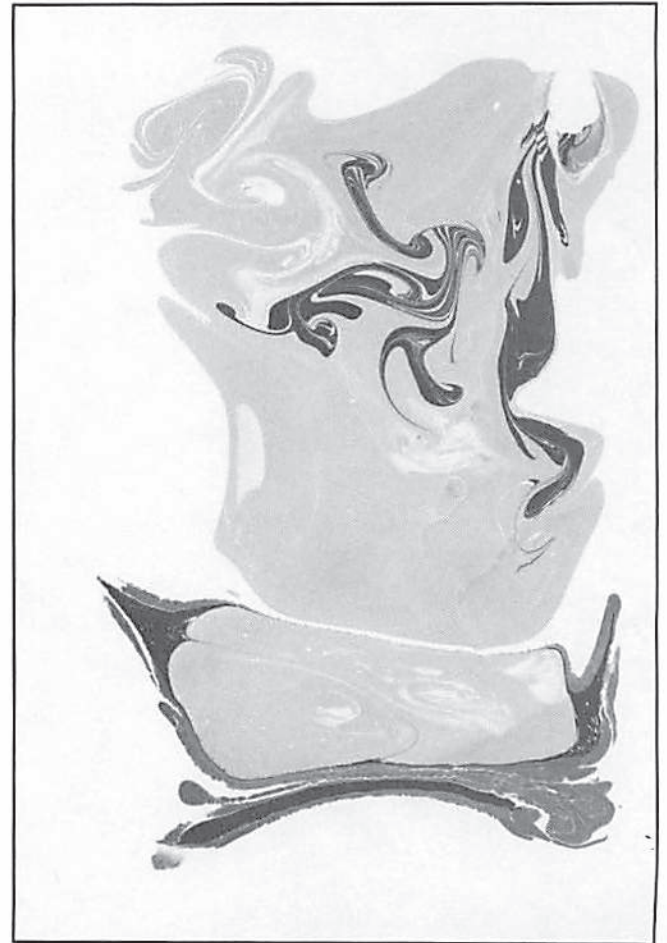
During this period, Segami took interest in Suminagashi (flowing ink originals), an ancient Japanese art form of painting, which was first originated in China over a thousand years ago. However, there is very little written about the process. After persistent research and consistent experimentation, utilizing her technical background, she is able to achieve this often mystic and sometimes startling artistic effects.

The process is best described as painting on a liquid surface. The

fluid mechanical properties of the inks, such as the surface tension and viscosity are attained through a balanced chemical reaction. Other know critical factors which affect the process are temperatures, humidity and air pollution particles. Due to a wide range of dependent variables, the artist may find it necessary to produce numerous pieces in order to achieve the desired effect.

For Segami, this new form of expression unifies her eastern and western heritages. Combing ancient wisdom and modern technology, she creates the fascinating fluid dynamic images which appear to take flight like birds floating through clouds; or the images may reach ever-expanding horizons like the ripples from a pebble breaking the surface of a tranquil pond.

Her work can be seen during an exhibition of celebrating ancient Japanese art forms: Ikebana and Suminagashi, at the Exhibition Hall, Main Building in the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, May 27 & 28, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Direct any inquires concerning future exhibitions to Segami Studios, 1340 West Irving Park Rd., Suite 227, Chicago, IL 60613, Telephone (312) 275-5121.



"Vapors Pink And Black" will be shown at Chicago Botanic Garden among twelve other pieces of work by Amy Lee Segami.