

John Naka

Inspired Centerpiece

for the **Pacific Bonsai Expo**

NOVEMBER 12-13TH, 2022

OVERVIEW:

The Pacific Bonsai Expo will showcase 75 juried displays of outstanding bonsai from across the United States. This show will bring together the finest bonsai trees, educators, and collectors at The Bridgeyard in Oakland, CA. The inaugural Expo in November 2022 will take maximum advantage of the large historical space with bespoke avante-garde exhibits from the event organizers. Eric and Dory Schrader and Jonas Dupuich. The centerpiece exhibit is inspired by John Naka, a legendary Japanese-American bonsai teacher.

We are seeking visionaries who understand the impact that Japanese culture and California's climate can have on artistry; and who seek to highlight the Japanese contribution to San Francisco Bay Area culture. The project seeks to raise awareness of bonsai as an art form and engage the public with suggestions that it can be a bridge to multicultural understanding.

GOALS:

1

Fund a centerpiece for the Pacific Bonsai Expo show created by a collaboration between Eric Schrader and renowned San Francisco Origami artist Linda Mihara. This display will incorporate a specimen bonsai with a murmuration of origami swallows.

2

Encourage thought and experience for visitors that will highlight the relationship of Japanese culture and California's amazing ecosystem. Educate visitors on the synergy between traditional Japanese arts, modern artistic design, and ecological awareness.

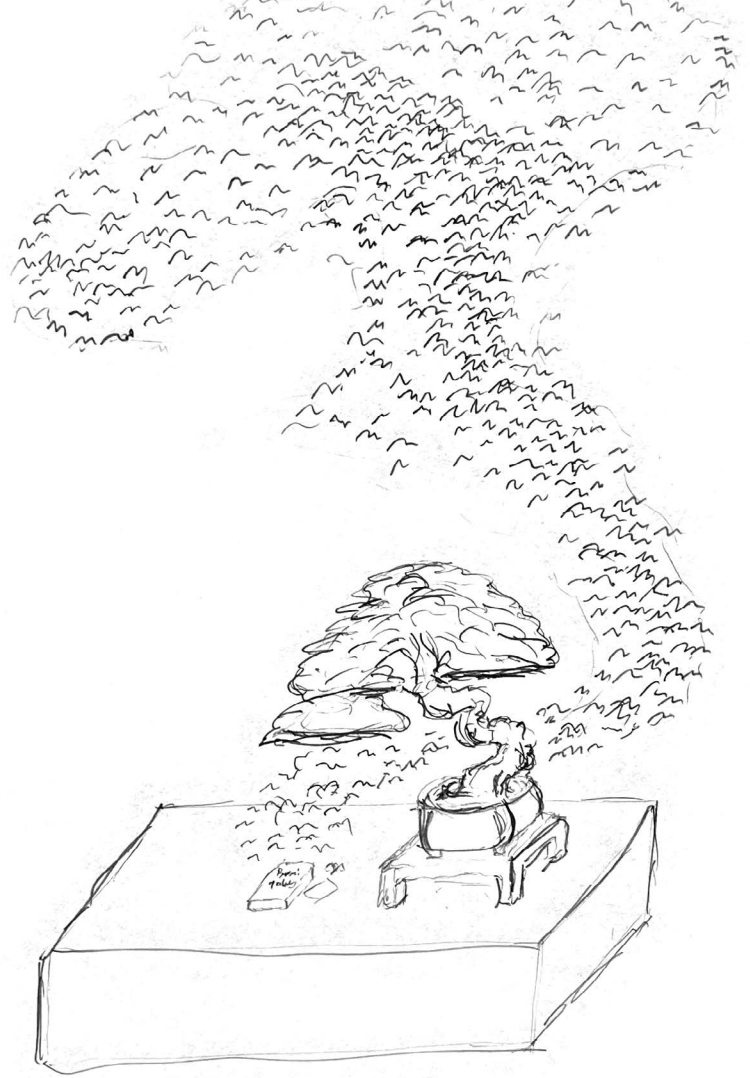


BENEFITS:

Supporters of this avant-garde installation will be recognized in multiple ways, including an invitation to the event's private reception for exhibitors on Friday November 11, 2022 and complementary weekend passes to the exhibit with a private tour with Eric Schrader to discuss the creation of the show itself and the special exhibits. The installation will be exposed to an estimated audience of 3,000 people who are highly engaged in bonsai as an artform as well as members of the public interested in bonsai and Japanese culture.

OVERALL COMMITMENT:

The organizers are seeking total sponsorship of \$15,000 to fund this exhibit. Funds will be used to purchase supplies and materials for the exhibit and to provide a stipend for the creation of the origami murmuration.



Installation sketch

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

\$15,000 - Sole Benefactor (Exclusive sponsorship available)

\$5,000 + Benefactors

\$1,000 - \$4,999 - Sponsors

\$100 - \$999 - Friends

ABOUT:



ERIC SCHRADER

Eric Schrader began studying bonsai in 2002 after attending a show from the Bonsai Society of San Francisco. Eric grew up in rural Mendocino County, and loved hiking among the oaks and redwoods. While studying with Boon Manakativipart for ten years, Eric developed a passion for starting trees from seed and cutting. In 2019 Eric and his wife Dory started Bonsaify to offer bonsai for everyone to experience and enjoy. [Bonsaify](#) is focused on connecting people to nature through informational and fun content, and on selling bonsai trees, containers, supplies, and related products through an online store. To keep up-to-date on Eric's pursuits, please visit [bonsaify.com](#) and sign-up to receive the newsletter; follow Eric on Instagram ([@ericsschraderbonsai](#)); and watch videos and subscribe to his [YouTube channel!](#)

ABOUT:

LINDA MIHARA



A San Francisco native and Third Generation Japanese American, Linda Tomoko Mihara began her lifelong origami journey at age 5. She is the granddaughter of Tokinobu Mihara, author of two of the first books on origami written in English in the early 1950's. Linda is an award-winning designer of complex origami art. Her ground-breaking designs include the 'Peace Sphere' - a three-dimensional sphere of 18 cranes folded from a single sheet of paper- inspired by origami techniques dating from the 18th century. Her 'Star Tessellated Dress and High Heels' won the 2009 Innovation Award at the California State Fair Fine Art Competition, the first time Origami was recognized as Fine Art in the history of the Fair. She was also honored with the Asian Pacific American Heritage Award in recognition of Creativity in Design. Her artworks have been on display in

Museums around the world, including most recently at the Asian Museum in San Francisco. Linda also owns and manages the [Paper Tree](#), a San Francisco Legacy Business, now in its 53rd year. The store offers one of the largest selections of Origami on the planet, as well as hand-crafted papers from Japan. In addition to her many commercial projects, Linda has volunteered her time to community projects such as the World Tree of Hope- the largest Origami tree in the world that is adorned with thousands of origami cranes and stars. Linda has also been an integral volunteer to the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival for the past 52 years and has donated her origami art to fundraisers for Lucille Packard Children's Hospital, Center For Ecosystem Survival, Nihonmachi Little Friends, and Kimochi Senior Services.

ABOUT:
**JOHN
NAKA**



Among all of the great bonsai artists, one stands out for his generosity, encouragement and approachable personality: John Yoshio Naka. Naka (1914–2004) was one of the founding members of the California Bonsai Society and the World Bonsai Friendship Federation, advised the National Bonsai Foundation for many years and received various awards from both Japanese and American leaders and fellowship programs. A few of John’s trees are now on display at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, including the world-renowned “Goshin.” John Naka was born in Colorado but grew up in Japan, where he studied bonsai under his grandfather. He moved back to the United States in his 20s and grew the bonsai movement largely from the West Coast. In the early 1950s, he began exhibiting his works to great acclaim and lectured widely on bonsai in Japanese and English. In 1973 his book *Bonsai Techniques* was published. In 1976, he helped launch the National Bonsai Foundation,

which aimed to establish a permanent public display of North American bonsai at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. The multimillion-dollar viewing pavilion became a reality and was named after Naka. In 1985 the emperor of Japan conferred upon him that country’s highest award given to a noncitizen, The Fifth Class Order of the Rising Sun. Over the years Naka became active in many nonprofit bonsai organizations, participated as a teacher and speaker at numerous conferences and programs, and was guest curator for exhibitions on bonsai. In addition to his breathtaking bonsai work, Naka was known for repeating proverbs and writing poems. “What I like about bonsai is that it has a beginning, but no end,” he says. “A bud today becomes a branch tomorrow. It is like searching for the rainbow’s end; the farther it is pursued, the farther away it is. There are no borders in bonsai. The dove of peace flies to palace as to humble house, to young as old, to rich or poor. So does the spirit of bonsai.”