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History of Shibui Chapter of Sumi-e Society of  
America in Mobile, AL

Shibui Chapter of the Sumi-e Society of America

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10-2020

## **Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the Shibui Chapter of the Sumi-e Society of America**

Mary Rodning

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**Thirty Fifth Anniversary of the *Shibui Chapter*  
of the *Sumi-e* Society of America**

Two Mobile women that had experienced Sumi-e in Japan, the Shibui chapter was organized 35 years ago, October 1985. Marguerite Hardesty was the prime organizer inviting other Mobile artists, and I was the leader and teacher. Patti Boyd Wilson who wrote art editorial articles for the Christian Science Monitor chose the name having visited Japan art museums, while finding artwork for the Boston Museum of Art.

Since I had been given permission to teach, helping my Japanese sensei, Hiede Haakenson, for new American students in Japan, I felt permitted to teach in Mobile, Alabama.

Shibui started painting in our Mobile Botanical Garden. Since Barbara Britton's family had saved the state fish hatchery after hurricane Frederick, Charles Wood, asked if he could attempt to form a Japanese Garden on the property with the Mobile Garden Club House as our painting location.

The Charles Wood Japanese Garden is appreciated by Mobilians for its quiet repose, from the city and all the lotus in summer, as well as being located near the Mobile Museum of Art.

We have had several internationally and American instructors as workshop providers. We have had three annual national Sumi-e Society Exhibitions.

We have had the opportunity to have Japanese influence of Mitsubishi Polysilicon engineer families, Medical School physicians'

**families, University professors' families and bonsai and ikebana connections.**

**Having been in Mobile for 35 years we are frequently asked about Asian art to teach and demonstrate. We have appreciated being able to share Japanese art information in this Southern city.**

**One of my greatest sharing opportunities was when our Japan Sister City Patron wanted to take my painting of the Japanese Garden done in the sumi-e style back to Japan!**

**As ever, Mary Rodning**