

Atelier Seiran Artist Profile

● About Atelier Seiran

Founded in 1970 in Tokushima, Japan, Atelier Seiran creates original works using Awa indigo, a traditional regional dye, combined with wax-resist dyeing techniques. Now led by second-generation artists Hatsuko Ukigawa and Kiyoko Hashimoto, the studio continues to explore how Japan's indigo tradition can speak to audiences and cultures around the world.

● Atelier Seiran website

(English) <https://seiran.art/english>

(French) <https://seiran.art/french>



● Artist Profile

Yoko Hashimoto

Founder of Atelier Seiran / Member of Le Salon

Inspired by the blue of Van Gogh, she entered the world of indigo and, captivated by its profound depth, has developed a distinctive artistic language while exploring the artistic potential of indigo.



Biography (Yoko Hashimoto & Atelier Seiran)

1931 Born in Tokushima, Japan

1965 Studied design under Sakkei Akashi

1969 Solo exhibition, Miyatake Gallery, Takamatsu

1970 Established Atelier Seiran, installing indigo vats at her family home

From 1971 onward Held solo exhibitions across Japan, including Takamatsu and Tokushima

March 1974 Held first solo exhibition in Ginza, Tokyo (Hamanoya)

February 2020 International Art Exhibition: 14th Monaco–Japan Art Festival

2022–2026 Selected for Le Salon (2022, 2023, 2025, 2026)

2022 Solo exhibition “Yoko Hashimoto and Atelier Seiran,” Ginza

2023, 2024 Exhibited at the 28th and 29th Salon International du Patrimoine Culturel

2024, 2025, 2026 Exhibited at Première Vision

2024 Selected for Salon d’Automne 2024

2024 Solo exhibitions in Ginza and Tokushima

2025 Participated in AKAA (Also Known As Africa)



「Fuji Above the Waves」

Selected for Le Salon 2026, Paris

Hatsuko Ukigawa

Representative of Atelier Seiran

Eldest daughter of Yoko Hashimoto. Raised in an environment that values women’s independence, she chose a scientific education and turned toward the field of information technology.



After founding and leading a software company, she developed technologies for education, knowledge, and expression under the principle that “technology should serve people.” In recent years, she has also engaged in artistic practice at Atelier Seiran, working with indigo as a traditional Japanese material.

Biography

1951 Born in Tokushima, Japan

1972 Graduated from the Faculty of Engineering (Electronics), Ehime University, Japan

1975 Married Kazunori Ukigawa

1979 Co-founded JustSystems; began assisting her mother with Awa Indigo dyeing

2009 Co-founded MetaMoJi

2013 Began working seriously in indigo dyeing

Selected for Le Salon 2023 in Paris

Selected for Salon d'Automne 2024 in Paris

「Expansion of the Brain II」

Selected for Salon d'Automne 2024, Paris



Kiyoko Hashimoto

General Producer, Atelier Seiran

Second daughter of Yoko Hashimoto. Guided by creativity, she pursued a career in art. Living abroad from her late twenties to early thirties, she developed a perspective of viewing Japanese culture from the outside. Encountering hiragana calligraphy, she has pursued a distinctive expression that integrates text and image, calligraphy and dyeing, centered on indigo, while questioning Japanese aesthetics in a contemporary context.



Biography

1953 Born in Tokushima, Japan

1975 Graduated from Tokyo Zokei University, Department of Textile Design

Worked at Takiho Co., Ltd., Tokyo Branch; moved to São Paulo following her husband's overseas assignment

1982 Worked as an external staff member for a Japanese textile company

2010 Began studying hiragana calligraphy

2015 Certified master of kana calligraphy; developed works integrating indigo dyeing with the traditional Japanese hanging scroll format

2018 Received the Minister of Education Award, Zenshogei Exhibition

2023 Encouragement Prize, Yomiuri Calligraphy Exhibition

Selected for Le Salon 2024 in Paris

Selected for Salon d'Automne 2025 in Paris



「Queen of the Night – The One Bloom」

Atelier Seiran

We work each day in close dialogue with Awa Ai.

The color of Awa Ai subtly changes depending on the condition of the vat, temperature, and humidity; the same blue never appears twice. Recognizing the right moment is an essential part of our process.

In batik dyeing, the type of wax, its temperature, and the nature of the fabric influence the formation of cracks and stretches, shaping the final expression. We engage with this element of chance as part of our creative practice.

While inheriting the founding vision of Yoko Hashimoto, we continue to move toward contemporary forms of expression.

We study traditional Japanese patterns, grasp their essence, and reinterpret them as new designs.

At the same time, we pursue new directions, including fusion with 3D expression, collaboration with kana calligraphy, and cultural dialogue with Africa.

Through each accumulation of these processes, we draw out the inherent power of Awa Ai and give it form.



● Artist Statements

Hatsuko Ukigawa

"For me, having engaged with indigo alongside my work in the IT field, this exhibition represents a unique opportunity where technology and culture, as well as the present and tradition, intersect. It is a great honor to introduce the world of Awa indigo—cultivated over many years by my mother—on an international stage such as the Venice Biennale."

Kiyoko Hashimoto

"I am truly delighted to present my indigo-based expressions, developed in Tokushima, on the historic stage of Venice. Through this work, I aim to create an immersive, spatial experience inspired by the world of waka poetry. The flowing lines of kana calligraphy drift through the space like an invisible fragrance, while the indigo-dyed textiles evoke the presence of branches and blossoms as expanding forms. By integrating calligraphy and dyeing as a unified practice, I seek to explore new dimensions of spatial expression."

● A Collaborative Exhibition with Serge Mouangue

Fissures of Light focuses on the creative light that emerges from the fissures of culture and history.

Africa and Japan—two distinct traditions—share a deep respect for nature and a memory rooted in community.

This collaborative exhibition is not merely a partnership; it is an attempt for civilizations to move beyond opposition, generating dialogue through their fissures and guiding a light toward the future.

If the solo exhibition represents “depth,” this collaboration represents “expansion.” Only when grounded in an inner spirit can dialogue truly take meaning.

Serge Mouangue

Born in Yaoundé, Cameroon, he later moved to Paris and studied applied arts and industrial design at ENSCI.

After training under architect Glenn Murcutt, he joined the Renault–Nissan Alliance design team in Tokyo, working on concept car design.

In 2008, he founded WAFRICA, exploring the fusion of West African and Japanese aesthetics; his kimono works using African wax fabrics have received international recognition.

In 2011, he was selected as a TED Fellow.

