



January, 2017  
Nihonto Bunka Shinko Kyokai Public Foundation (NBSK)  
Chairman: Hon'ami Koshu  
Chairman of the Steering Committee:  
Abe Kazunori

## **The 8th Japanese Sword Craftsmens' Exhibition 2nd Sword Oshigata Art Competition Division Guidelines**

From May this year, the NBSK has officially added the category of the *Sword Oshigata Art* division to the 8th Japanese Sword Craftsmens' Exhibition/Competition.

Last year was the first time we had tried out the new *Sword Oshigata Art* competition. Although we only received seven entries, it proved very popular among our staff, the craftsmen, and our members. Due to its success, we realized the importance of oshigata in the promotion of Japanese swords, and giving the general public a deeper understanding of them. In light of this, we have decided to continue the category again this year.

Therefore, we warmly invite you to try your hand at producing oshigata, and enter our competition.

### **Guidelines**

#### **1. Title**

This section will be named the *Sword Oshigata Art* division. (However, it will be treated separately to the Japanese Sword Craftsmens' Competition with a separate application form and listings).

#### **2. Venue and Dates**

The competition venue, dates, and entry method will be the same as the 8th Japanese Sword Craftsmens' Competition.

#### **3. Method of Entry**

**a.** Applicants must use the separate entry form provided for the *Sword Oshigata Art* division. Application forms must be received by the NBSK by March 23 (Thurs), 2017 (Japan time). They can be submitted via airmail, fax or email attachments. Applicants should receive an official entry sheet and a form to wire the entry fee by around April 1, 2017.

**b.** If your entry is not accompanied by an official entry sheet, your entry will be refused.

#### **4. Rules of Entry.**

**a.** Anyone can enter as long as they comply with the conditions stated below. If your entry does not comply with the conditions stated below it will not be accepted.

**b.** Oshigata of National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties will not be accepted.

**c.** The oshigata entry must be of an actual sword. At the very least a photograph of the original sword must be included with the entry. If possible, it is preferable that the actual blade (along with its original 'Firearms and Swords Registration Certificate') is also submitted.

**d.** Oshigata of swords that have been submitted to either the sword-making, polishing or horimono categories of the 8th Japanese Sword Craftsmens' Competition will be accepted.

**e.** The oshigata should include the complete length of the outline of the blade on both sides, and include the details of the nakago and hamon. Oshigata of only sections of a blade will be refused entry. The nakago can be recorded using ink or sekaboku (waxy charcoal tablet), and the hamon by using ink and brush or pencils, etc. Only original oshigata will be accepted, photocopies, or prints and so forth are not accepted.

**f.** The oshigata should be performed on Japanese paper (hand or machine made) and can be displayed in on a hanging scroll, or on a panel (simple mounts may be accepted, but depending on their condition we reserve the right to refuse their entry). Entries should be dated with the year of production and signed with the artists name, or art-name. In the case of unsigned works, please supply a certificate of authenticity with the details on (we prefer the oshigata itself to be signed, but we also accepted the information on an attached piece of paper).

**g.** This year the oshigata made within the last 10 years are accepted. However, this rule may change for next year's competition.

**h.** Oshigata will be submitted to close examination. Superior works will be awarded points.

**i.** Entries are limited to one per person. The entry fee is 10,000 JPY for both members and non-members of the NBSK. Entry fees must be paid in full by 4 pm (Japan time) on 22nd (Fri) of April, 2016 or your entry will not be accepted.

**j.** Entries must be received in the three-day period of between the 20th (Wed) and 22nd (Fri) of April, 2016 at the address below between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm.

The Sakaki-machi Museum of Tetsu  
6313-2 Sakaki-machi  
Sakaki, Hanishina County,  
Nagano prefecture  
Japan 389-0601

### **5. Others**

- a.** Oshigata receiving a designation higher than *nyusen* will be displayed at the Sakaki Museum of Tetsu for the duration of the 8th Japanese Sword Craftsmens' Exhibition. However, they will be displayed in a separate section.
- b.** Superior works will be included in the exhibition catalogue.



※For further details, please see the homepage or contact the head office via email.

Nihonto Bunka Shinko Kyokai Public Foundation (N.B.S.K.)

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# Sword Oshigata Art Division Application Form

Entry Information	Please circle whichever is applicable	
Type of Blade	Katana Wakizashi Tanto Yari Naginata Other ( )	
How is the oshigata mounted?	Scroll	Panel
Is it an oshigata of a competition entry sword?	Yes	No
Will you also submit the actual blade?	Yes	No
Entry Fee 10,000 JPY for both members and non-members		JPY

Date:            dd/mm/yyyy            /            /

I hereby apply to enter the above item into the 2nd Sword Oshigata Art Competition

Address			Are you a NBSK member? Yes    No
Name			Years experience _____ Year(s)
D.O.B.			
TEL/FAX	TEL:	FAX	
E-mail			

Additional info  
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 .....  
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※ If you have a friend who would like to enter, please give us their details and we will send them an entry form.

Name	Email Address