January, 2021
The Society for the Promotion of Japanese Sword Culture (NBSK)
Chairman: Yoshihara Kuniie

The 11th Japanese Sword Craftsmens' Exhibition
5th Sword Oshigata Art Competition Division Guidelines

From July 22 (Thurs), 2021, the NBSK the *5th Sword Oshigata Art* competition will be held in tandem with the 11th Japanese Sword Craftsmens' Exhibition/Competition.

The *Sword Oshigata Art* competition 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, so decide to include them in the exhibition. Therefore, we warmly invite you to try your hand at producing oshigata, and enter our competition.
※ Oshigata in temporary mountings with temporary fixings are acceptable.

Guidelines

1. Title
This section will be named the *Sword Oshigata Art* division. However, it will be considered separate to the Japanese Sword Craftsmens' Competition exhibition with a separate application form and result listings.

2. Venue and Dates
The competition venue, dates, and entry method will be the same as the 11th 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 April 15 (Thurs), 2021 (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 early April 30, 2021.

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. Although oshigata of National Treasures, Important Cultural Properties and Important Art Objects will be accepted, the original blades 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 the blade is also submitted it may also be displayed in the exhibition. (however, swords classed as National Treasures, Important Cultural Properties and Important Art Objects, will not be accepted. The original 'Firearms and Swords Registration Certificate' must also be submitted).

d. Oshigata of swords that have been submitted to either the sword-making, polishing or horimono categories of the 11th 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. Oshigata performed on Japanese paper (hand or machine made) is preferable, and can be displayed in on a hanging scroll, or on a panel 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.
※ Simple mounts may be accepted, but depending on their condition we reserve the right to refuse their entry.
※ It is preferable that the oshigata itself to be signed, but we also accept 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. Designated Master Sword Craftsmen and Judges may resubmit articles from previous competitions.

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 per item for both NBSK members and non-members. Entry fees must be paid in full by 4 pm (Japan time) on 8th (Sat) of May, 2021 or your entry will not be accepted.

j. Entries must be received in the three-day period of between the 6th (Thurs) and 8th (Sat) of May, 2021 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 11th 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.
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