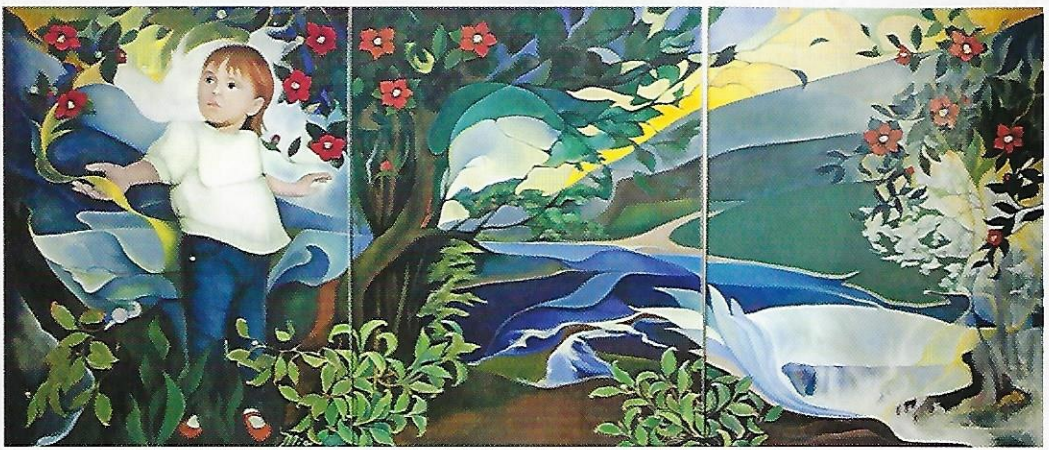


Ever wonder what music by Beethoven or a poem by Friedrich Schiller looks like? Gaze into a painting by artist Mio Kawamura Reynolds and you'll have your answer. Not unlike the visible gestures of a conductor's baton, Mio commands her canvas with intense color and exaggerated brush strokes. Moved by the poignant forces of music, literature and dance, Mio creates distinctive works of contemporary art.

Brushing BEETHOVEN





“YOU MIGHT CALL MY STYLE EXPRESSIONISM,” Mio says. “I’ve developed my own style of contemporary art mixed with traditional abstract art.”

Oil on canvas is Mio’s favorite medium. She tries to express depth without the use of shadows. Void - ground and empty space - is as important to Mio as the figures or substance of her work. Exceptional beauty and power inspire her to create pieces that invoke emotion.

Mio, born and raised in Tokyo, Japan, is a self-taught artist with no formal training. She knew she enjoyed art since early childhood, but a serendipitous moment when she was twelve ignited a serious passion to be an artist. One morning on her way to catch a train for school, Mio locked eyes with a captivating young woman walking toward her. They stared at each other, and as the young woman passed her, she turned around to see the young woman also turning around. “After a brief pause, I asked her, ‘are you going to the art academy?’” Mio says. “I had no idea what prompted me to think she was going to the academy.”



The prestigious Musashino Academy of Art was a block from Mio’s home. The young woman replied that she was and asked Mio if she’d like to go with her. So Mio skipped school that day and attended classes with the young woman. From that day forward, she went to the academy every day after school and on the weekends where she listened to lectures and debates on Kierkegaard, Sartre and Dostoevsky, to name a few, and joined the students in drawing and painting. The young woman Mio met that day on her way to school was Ms. Yasuko Furuyama, recognized as one of Japan’s most promising young artists. Yasuko

and Mio became best friends.

As important as the experience at Musashino Academy of Art was to Mio, her college career temporarily diverted her away from art. She earned a Bachelor’s degree in Social Sciences and a Master’s degree in Psychology from International Christian University in Tokyo. While a Junior at ICU, Mio was the first woman research student selected to work at the National Institute of Mental Health of Japan. After graduating from ICU, Mio moved to the United States where she earned her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

Mio enjoyed a distinguished career as an assistant professor and researcher. She even started her own research and consulting firm that included Toyota among her client list. But she never put aside her art, continuing to explore and experiment with techniques and themes like movement and transformation in her work, *Swan Love*, inspired by Tchaikovsky’s *Swan Lake*, or light and

contradictions in *Transition: Day and Night*.

In Mio’s 76 years, she’s broken barriers and never backed down from a challenge, including meeting cancer head on. She approached her diagnosis the same way she approaches everything else in life, with determination. More than six years later, Mio is alive and well and offers this advice: “To those suffering from cancer and those who have received cancer treatments, I say: ‘Live fully, friends. Life is beautiful!’”

Mio’s art can be found in private collections. To see her work contact her at mreynolds004@ec.rr.com. ■

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