

Sculptor Susumu Shingu celebrates his 88th birthday

## I want to connect the innocence of children

Susumu Shingu (third from left in the front row) and his wife Yasuko (second from left in the front row) holding bouquets at the "Celebration of Susumu Shingu's 88th Birthday" in Sanda, Hyogo Prefecture

A celebration was held on the 13th, his birthday, in Sanda City, Hyogo Prefecture, to commemorate the 88th birthday of Shingu Susumu, a sculptor known for his diverse creative activities, including sculptural works that move with the wind and water, and picture book production.

Born in Osaka, Shingu studied painting at Tokyo University of the Arts. While studying abroad in Italy, he began creating three-dimensional works, and after returning to Japan, he presented sculptures that move with the wind and water. Since then, he has received high praise not only in Japan but also overseas.

A celebration was held on the 13th of July, his birthday, in Sanda, Hyogo, to commemorate the 88th birthday of Shingu Susumu, a sculptor known for his diverse creative activities, including sculptural works that move with the wind and water, and picture book production.

Born in Osaka, Shingu studied painting at Tokyo University of the Arts. While studying abroad in Italy, he began creating three-dimensional works, and after returning to Japan, he presented sculptures that move with the wind and water. Since then, he has received high praise not only in Japan but also overseas.

This event also served as a celebration of the 77th birthday of Yasuko, the wife who has been quietly supporting Shinmiya's work. Former Hyogo Prefectural Governor Toshizo Ido and Tomio Sugaya, director of the Nakanoshima Museum of Art in Osaka, who have been friends with the

couple for many years, also attended the event. Shingu, who had just received the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, Cavaliere, last month, announced in his speech that he would be holding a solo exhibition in Milan next year.

Shingu, who created the character Sandalino that flew from space to Sanda, has not only published picture books in Japan but also in Italy and France, and has been dedicated to art for young people. While his wind sculptures are a highlight, Sandalino is also expected to be a focal point of the Milan exhibition.

Shingu said, one of the reasons the director of the museum liked my work was because she mentioned Sandalino, saying, “Shingu, who has been involved with nature for a long time, sought the help of aliens at this point.”

Taking this opportunity, I want to take the children to international exchange events. I want to connect the purity of the children with each other. I believe that this will lead to world peace, he talked about his dream.

The venue was also graced by the presence of guitarist Takumi Seino, who became a fan of the picture book “Strawberries” when he was young and has composed music for performances produced by Shingu. His lively performance added to the festive atmosphere.

In response to Governor Ido's congratulatory remarks, “Even though you are 88 years old, you are still very active and energetic,” the 88-year-old sculptor said, “I never imagined that the celebration would be so much fun. Yasuko, and I look forward to your continued support in the future,” with a slightly solemn smile on his face.

(Toshikazu Masaki)