

A CONTEMPORARY wedding

Fumiko Higo is a talented designer from Japan, who came to New Zealand to exhibit at the Ellerslie Flower Show.

Armed with 1500 chopsticks which were split, coloured orange and glued together, Fumiko created a unique table setting for the title, "A Contemporary Wedding." "I wanted to imagine a seaside wedding," she explained, "by imagining the beautiful blue sea and waves of New Zealand."

Fumiko designed the piece as it would be seen in a florist shop, a display to show the talent of the florist and what could be possible for a modern wedding.

Trained in Japan, England, France and Germany, Fumiko studied the technique and essence of each country's designs and now has her own school in Japan teaching flower arranging. She is also an active competitor, recently winning the Grand Prix in the Bouquet section at the 2004 Orchid Festival in Tokyo, and receives awards each year at other floral art events.

"I try to express floral art as one of the elements of Art," she said, "and make my work different from others. Of course, the art is very important but also I think about the very important relationship and influences between flowers and the mind."

