

INSIDE

# NINJUTSU

NINJUTSU, BUJINKU & MORE | THE SHINOBI SERIES MAGAZINE | ISSUE #2 | SUMMER 2024

## Japan's oldest jujutsu school

- ➔ Ninjutsu By Numbers
- ➔ Budo Snaps
- ➔ Samurai Strongholds

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TRAINING MANUAL + DEVELOP SUPERHUMAN EYESIGHT

# EDITOR'S NOTE



## EXPANDED SECOND ISSUE

**Welcome to the second issue of Inside Ninjutsu! We're thrilled to bring you an even bigger and more packed edition, filled with the latest news, captivating features, and insightful articles. Our community is growing, and with it, our dedication to exploring the rich world of ninjutsu and martial arts.**

*In this issue, we delve into the heated online debate surrounding Yasuke, the African samurai. Was he truly a samurai? We examine historical evidence to draw informed conclusions about his intriguing role and status.*

*Our expansive eight-page section on Japanese fortresses invites you to uncover the ingenious defenses samurai constructed and guides you through the most notable sites to visit today.*

*Popular features from our debut issue return, including 'The Toolbox', where we explore the weapons and tools wielded by ninja and samurai. This edition also sees the return of 'Budo Snaps', our stunning photo section, and 'The Manual', your essential training guide. This time, we focus on developing superhuman vision, body conditioning, and mastering the iconic shuriken.*

*Thank you for joining us on this journey. We hope you find inspiration, knowledge, and a deeper connection to the martial arts within these pages.*

*Chris*

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
INSIDE NINJUTSU**



## CREDITS

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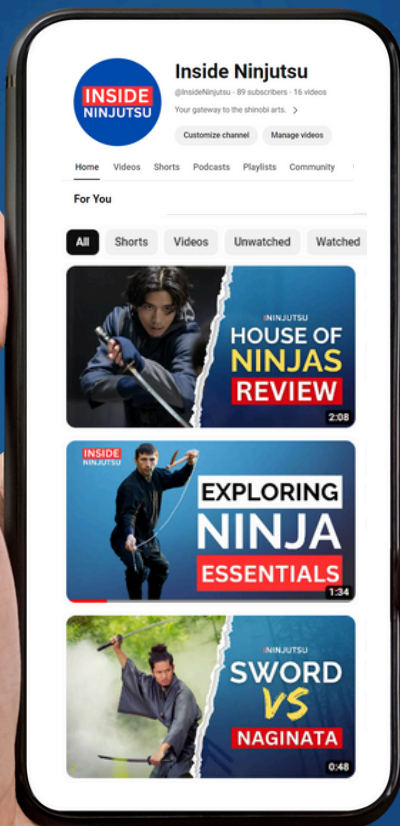
Elevate Your Martial Arts Skills with Inside Ninjutsu's Comprehensive Training Section.

### DISCLAIMER

The articles presented in this magazine are intended for informational, historical, and entertainment purposes only. The authors and publishers do not condone or endorse any criminal acts, and readers are encouraged to approach the content with a responsible and ethical perspective. Prior to engaging in any physical activity or attempting techniques discussed in this magazine, it is strongly advised to consult a qualified medical professional or trained instructor to ensure your safety and well-being.

Readers are welcome to freely distribute this magazine, keeping in mind the importance of responsible sharing and the adherence to legal and ethical standards. The content herein is meant to inspire curiosity, knowledge, and appreciation for martial arts and related subjects.

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INSIDE

# NINJUTSU

P R E S E N T S



A DEDICATED NINJUTSU



# PODCAST

## STREAMING NOW

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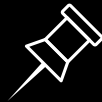


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Got a story, blog or article for us? Get in touch today. [www.InsideNinjutsu.com](http://www.InsideNinjutsu.com)



# BUYU BULLETIN



**News**



**Stories**



**Blogs**



## Your Stories Wanted!

As we continue our journey through the shadows, "INSIDE NINJUTSU" invites you to become an integral part of our vibrant community. We are thrilled to announce an open call for contributions from passionate individuals like you, who embody the spirit and dedication of the ninjutsu tradition.

Whether you're a seasoned practitioner, a martial arts club leader, or an avid researcher, we welcome your stories, insights, and discoveries to grace the pages of our esteemed publication. "INSIDE NINJUTSU" is more than just a magazine; it's a platform for the global ninjutsu community to share, connect, and celebrate our shared passion.

Share the achievements and milestones of your martial arts club. Whether it's a recent accomplishment, a unique training approach, or a special event, we want to showcase the diverse and thriving ninjutsu communities around the world.

Are you organizing a seminar or workshop? Let the community know! Share details about your upcoming events, imparting knowledge and skills to fellow practitioners. It's an opportunity to connect and enrich the ninjutsu experience for everyone.

Excited about a new book or video related to ninjutsu? Whether it's your creation or a recommendation, we want to feature it. Let us know about the latest releases that captivate the essence of ninjutsu.

Have you stumbled upon a historical gem related to ninjutsu? Whether it's a newfound scroll, artifact, or an insightful discovery, share your historical revelations with the community. Let's collectively unravel the secrets of the past.

## How to Contribute:

Feel free to submit entire articles, accompanied by captivating pictures. Your contributions can cover a wide range of topics—personal experiences, training methodologies, historical insights, or any other aspect that fuels your passion for ninjutsu.



[InsideNinjutsu.com](https://www.insideninjutsu.com)



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# NINJA NEWS

Global shinobi stories at a glance

## WORKSHOP

Dai Shihan Jake Sharpstone will be teaching at the Bujinkan Cambridge Dojo on the 1st June. He'll be sharing the wisdom gained from the Nagato seminar in Lithuania. £20 in advance or £25 on the door.

## IRELAND

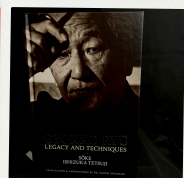
### NOGUCHI TAIKAI

Namiryu Dojo has just announced an eagerly anticipated event in Dublin. Yukio Noguchi, esteemed senior Bujinkan instructor and the 19th head of the Koto Ryu tradition, will be leading a special seminar in September 2025. While specific details about the seminar remain scarce at this time, practitioners can expect an exceptional learning experience from one of the most respected figures in the Bujinkan community.



## MENKYO KAIDEN

Five esteemed practitioners have been honored with the prestigious title of Menkyo Kaiden in Shinden Fudo Ryu. This coveted recognition has been bestowed by Nagato Sensei on Duncan Stewart from Tasmania, Ed Lomax from Australia, Marc Jahan from Germany, David Waryu from Spain, and Michael Schjerling from Denmark. Each of these individuals has exemplified the highest standards of martial excellence, embodying the spirit of dedication, perseverance, and humility that defines the Bujinkan tradition.



Ishizuka Tetsuji Sensei has been presented with a printed copy of his inaugural book, 'Gyokko Ryu: Legacy & Techniques.' This milestone, announced via a heartfelt Facebook post from Ryugi Shuppan, marks a significant achievement in Ishizuka Sensei's journey—a culmination of years of dedication, study, and profound insights into the Gyokko Ryu tradition.

## JAPAN

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the acclaimed TV show Shogun is set to return for two additional seasons, much to the delight of fans and critics alike. This announcement comes after the Disney+ mini-series was celebrated as one of the best shows of 2024, garnering widespread acclaim.

## SHOGUN SEASON 2

## KAWAKAMI COURSE

The Japan Ninja Council is offering a unique opportunity to learn under the esteemed guidance of Jinichi Kawakami Sensei. This immersive educational experience will cover basic martial arts and ninjutsu skills as transmitted in traditional scrolls like the 'Inpei Jiken No Maki'.

Training sessions will take place at the historic Aekuni Jinja over the summer.

# South West Martial Arts Show

Bristol's vibrant martial arts scene is set to come alive this September as the South West Martial Arts & Wellbeing Show returns with an impressive line-up of talent and activities.

**A**mong the highlights of this eagerly anticipated event is the addition of Inyo Dojo to the roster, promising an unforgettable demonstration of Bujinkan techniques led by instructor Raj Bhakerd and his dedicated students.

Following their successful public display at last October's Japanese Cultural Day hosted at the M Shed, Raj Bhakerd and his team are gearing up to showcase the intricacies and power of Bujinkan martial arts at Thornbury Leisure Centre. Attendees can expect to witness the grace, precision, and effectiveness of these ancient techniques firsthand, as the Inyo Dojo contingent takes the stage to demonstrate their mastery of the art.

However, the excitement doesn't end there. The South West Martial Arts & Wellbeing Show boasts an eclectic mix of martial arts celebrities, experts, and local clubs, ensuring there's something for everyone.







One of the standout names on the bill is none other than actor Mark Strange, renowned for his roles in blockbuster films such as *Batman Begins*, *Avengement*, and *Ip Man 4*. Having played a lead role in the action-horror flick *Redcon-1*, Strange brings his wealth of experience and on-screen charisma to the event.

Adding to the star-studded line-up is stuntman and World Kickboxing Champion, Lee Charles. With credits in major Hollywood productions like *The Expendables 4*, *The Batman*, and

*Avengement* alongside martial arts icon Scott Adkins, Charles promises to dazzle audiences with his dynamic presence and impressive skills.

But the South West Martial Arts & Wellbeing Show isn't just about star power – it's an interactive and immersive experience for attendees of all ages and skill levels. From live demonstrations and workshops to autograph signings and exclusive interviews, the event offers a unique opportunity to engage with martial arts in all its forms.

Mark your calendars for September 21st 2024, and get your tickets for a day filled with excitement, inspiration, and celebration of martial arts and wellbeing.





Chris Crudelli, host of 'Mind, Body & Kiss Ass Moves' gives a workshop at the inaugural event



# Rare Samurai Letter Discovered

**In a recent discovery reported by NHK News & Samurai History & Culture, a significant artifact from Japan's medieval period has emerged: a letter penned by the renowned Viper of Mino, Saito Dosan (1494 – May 28, 1556).**

This missive, addressed to a neighboring feudal lord and authenticated by experts, sheds new light on the relationship between Dosan and his son-in-law, the legendary Sengoku warlord Oda Nobunaga.

The privately owned letter, recently deposited at the Mito City Museum, has undergone rigorous examination by Associate Professor Murai Yuki of the Historiographical Institute of the University of Tokyo. According to Murai, the letter likely dates back to around 1552, a pivotal period in Japanese history marked by political intrigue and shifting alliances.

Dosan's letter, written during his rule over central Mino Province

(now Gifu Prefecture), reveals his sentiments towards Nobunaga, whom he had strategically married to his daughter Nohime to forge alliances between their respective clans. Despite Nobunaga's youth and perceived shortcomings, Dosan expresses his hope that the recipient of the letter will continue to support him—a testament to Dosan's concern for his son-in-law's welfare and the stability of their political alliance.

The significance of this discovery lies not only in its rarity but also in its implications for our understanding of medieval Japanese politics and familial relationships. Associate Professor Murai emphasizes the scarcity

of surviving letters from Dosan and the rarity of references to Nobunaga within them, making this artifact a valuable addition to our historical knowledge.

This newly unearthed letter offers a glimpse into the personal dynamics between two influential figures of Japanese history. It serves as a poignant reminder of the complexities of feudal society and the enduring bonds that shaped the course of events during this tumultuous era.





# The Next Chapter: Sean Askew's New Endeavors



Renowned Bujinkan teacher and researcher Sean Askew is not one to rest on his laurels. With a rich history of training under Hatsumi Sensei and the Bujinkan Shihan during his decade-long residence in Japan, Askew has become a prominent figure in the martial arts community. Now, he's gearing up for some exciting new projects that promise to deepen our understanding of ancient martial traditions.

A graduate of Sophia University with a degree in Japanese Language & History, Askew brings both academic rigor and practical experience to his work. His latest collaboration with fellow Bujinkan instructor Alex Esteve involves the creation of a groundbreaking book on Koto Ryu. Set to be released in February/March 2025, this book will offer unprecedented insights into this ancient martial arts tradition, including previously unreleased material and a detailed exploration of the life and teachings of Noguchi Sensei, the current head of the school.

But that's not all. Askew is also hard at work on a follow-up to his acclaimed book, *Hidden Lineage*, which delves into the hidden history of the Bujinkan. Additionally, he's undertaking the formidable task of translating a rare Japanese military text dating back to the 1770s. This nearly 300-page encyclopedia, focusing on the martial arts of Natori Ryu, is a treasure trove of knowledge with only three known copies in existence. Of particular interest is a section known as the *Shinobi no maki*, or *ninja scroll*, offering invaluable insights into the secretive world of the *ninja*.

# Nami Ryu Dojo: A Legacy of Martial Mastery in Dublin

*Under the guidance of seasoned instructor Alex Meehan, students delve into nine ancient martial traditions, gaining insights into the deep cultural heritage and rigorous training that define this unique practice. Learn about the club's history, the profound journey of its instructor, and the vibrant community that brings these timeless arts to life.*



Japanese calligraphy, inked with graceful strokes, adorns the walls. Adjacent, diplomas hang with quiet pride, each bearing the revered signature of the grandmaster. Wooden swords and razor-sharp blades, meticulously crafted and displayed in custom stands, speak of an age-old art steeped in precision and respect. A vast window bathes the dojo in natural light, casting a soft, golden hue over the tatami mats where students move with practiced grace, embodying the timeless techniques of their forebears. Here, in this sanctuary of learning, the ancient ways come to life in every measured step and fluid motion. This is the Nami Ryu Dojo.

The training centre is part of the International Bujinkan Dojo organization, founded in the 1970s by Masaki Hatsumi, the 'Soke' or lineal inheritor of nine distinct martial traditions with histories spanning several centuries. These traditions include

Gyokko Ryu, Koto Ryu, Togakure Ryu, Kukishinden Ryu, Takagi Yoshin Ryu, Shinden Fudo Ryu, Gikan Ryu, Kumogakure Ryu, and Gyokushin Ryu. The dojo, now in its 26th year, continues to impart these age-old disciplines to new generations of martial artists.

Alex Meehan, the dedicated instructor at Nami Ryu Dojo, is a seasoned martial artist with a profound connection to the Bujinkan arts. "I'm one of the second generation of western ninjutsu students," Alex shares. His journey began in the late 1980s, during a time when Dublin experienced a 'ninja boom.' Inspired by ninja movies, Jackie Chan, and The Karate Kid, Alex's early enthusiasm for martial arts was fueled by a desire to find strength through skill and discipline. His first instructor, Steve Byrne, introduced him to prominent visiting teachers like Peter King, Pedro Fleitas, Arnaud Cousergue, and Sverenic Bogsater, fostering a vibrant martial

arts community in Dublin during the 1990s.

Alex's dedication led him to Japan in 2000, where he has since made over 50 visits, training extensively with Hatsumi Sensei, Noguchi Yukio Sensei, and Nagato Toshiro Sensei. His primary mentor, Someya Sensei, has been instrumental in deepening Alex's understanding of the ryuha and the intricate weapons of the Bujinkan. This deep reservoir of knowledge extends to Japanese swords, armour, and art, enriching Alex's martial journey.

“I've spent just under 20 years training with Someya Sensei on the specifics of the ryuha and the weapons found with the Bujinkan Dojo. He's a remarkable teacher, a walking encyclopaedia of the contents of the schools.”

## CLUB PROFILE

Reflecting on his experiences, Alex notes the dichotomy within Bujinkan training. "The Bujinkan is a very unusual martial arts organization," he explains. "It's possible to have quite a shallow experience of training, learning quite a basic martial art, depending on the teacher you find. But it's also possible to have an incredibly deep experience, learning about culture and history to an extraordinary degree, with extremely skilled people." This depth and complexity are what have kept Alex dedicated to his practice for so many years, finding endless layers of learning and growth within the martial arts that Takamatsu Sensei imparted to Hatsumi Sensei.

Alex's commitment to high standards and continuous learning is shared by a network of like-minded instructors worldwide. Collaborations with martial artists like Alex Esteve from Spain, Sean Askew from the US, and Javier Morla from Spain have fostered a research group called 'Bufu Kenkyosho,' dedicated to sourcing, translating, and interpreting historical records related to their arts. These efforts, along with friendships with instructors like Holger Kunzmann in Germany and Duncan Stewart in Tasmania, contribute to a vibrant and rigorous martial arts community.



“I'm lucky to be friends with a group... who pursue training in similar ways to me.”

At Nami Ryu Dojo, Alex is supported by dedicated students who have grown under his tutelage, such as Tom Clements and Stiofan Conlon, both Daishihan, and long-time practitioners like Ali Martinez and Joe Dunne. Together, they uphold the dojo's legacy of excellence, embodying the principles and skills of the Bujinkan Dojo.

Nami Ryu Dojo remains a beacon of martial mastery in Dublin, inviting practitioners to delve deep into the rich traditions and rigorous training of the Bujinkan arts.

Visit the dojo  
website

[happobiken.com/](http://happobiken.com/)

# STILL AVAILABLE ISSUE #1



- ➔ Ninja Myths Busted
- ➔ Elevate Your Home Training
- ➔ The Art of Kyudo
- ➔ 7 Shinobi Disguises
- ➔ Mike Stone: Movie Ninja
- ➔ Budo Snaps
- ➔ Nutrition

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# THE RISE OF NINJA MAGAZINE IN THE 1980S

## EXPLORING THE ICONIC PUBLICATION

In the heyday of the 1980s, when neon lights flickered and hair reached dizzying heights, there was another phenomenon sweeping through popular culture: ninjas. These enigmatic Japanese warriors captured the imagination of the western world, igniting a fascination with their mysterious ways and deadly skills.

It was against this backdrop that the iconic 'Original Ninja' magazine emerged, blazing a trail for enthusiasts hungry for knowledge of the shadowy art.

Published by Condor Books from 1983 to 1995, 'Ninja' magazine was more than just a publication—it was a gateway to the clandestine world of ninjutsu. Its striking cover art, featuring colorful ninjas in dramatic poses, beckoned readers into a realm of history, techniques, and news articles. Stars of the martial arts world like Masaaki Hatsumi, Stephen K Hayes, and Jack Hoban graced its pages, sharing their wisdom and insights with eager practitioners.



But it wasn't just the content that made 'Ninja' magazine a beloved staple of martial arts enthusiasts—it was the adverts. A veritable treasure trove of weapons, from sickles to shuriken, adorned its pages, alongside catalogues of shinobi books available for order by mail. For many, these adverts were a window into a world of possibilities, sparking dreams of mastering ancient arts and honing ninja skills.

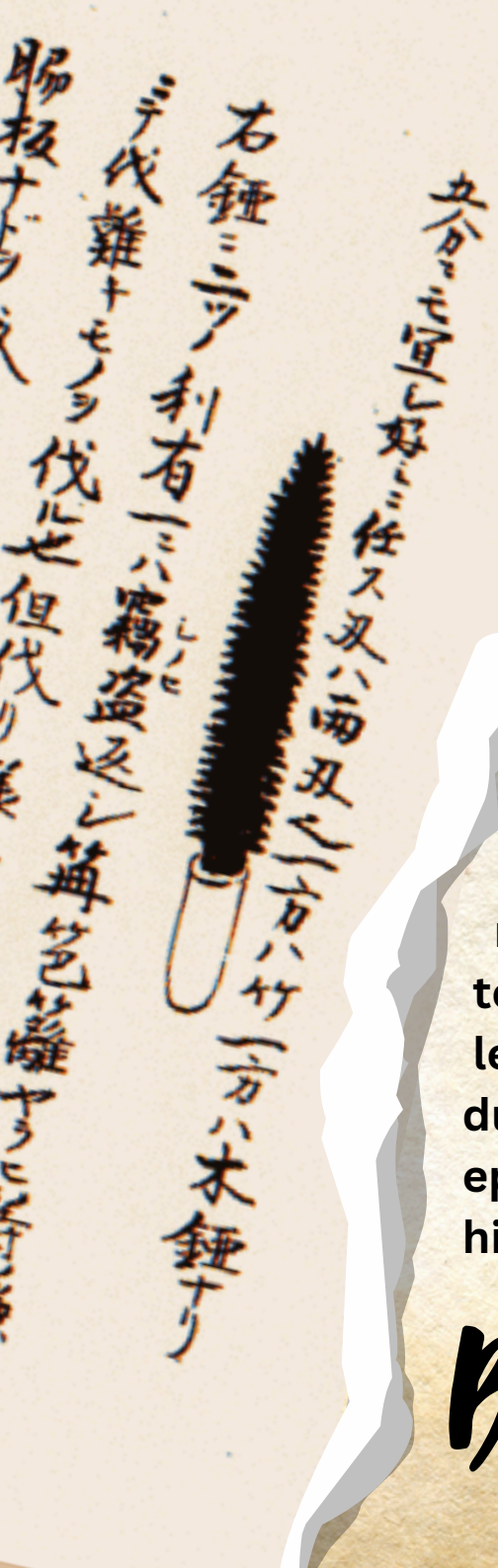


As the years passed, 'Ninja' magazine inspired a legion of copycats and spin-offs, each seeking to capture the allure of the ninja craze. Today, vintage copies of the original publication are prized possessions,

fetching hefty sums on eBay and serving as nostalgic reminders of a bygone era.



But as they say, every ending is a new beginning. Enter 'Inside Ninjutsu' magazine—a contemporary publication that pays homage to its predecessor while catering to modern martial artists and shinobi researchers alike. With insightful content, 'Inside Ninjutsu' is a testament to the enduring legacy of the ninja and the continued fascination with their art.



Dive into the depths of ninja lore with the **Bansenshukai**, a pivotal document chronicling the clandestine arts of the shinobi. Crafted by Fujibayashi Yasutake in 1676, this manuscript stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of ninja warfare during the tumultuous epochs of Japanese history.

# Bansenshukai



# Historical Ninja Manuscript



## Preserving the Legacy

In an era marked by ceaseless conflict, Fujibayashi Yasutake sought to safeguard the wisdom cultivated by the clans of Iga and Kōga regions. The Bansenshukai emerged as a beacon of knowledge, meticulously compiled to immortalize the martial traditions honed amidst the chaos of feudal Japan.

## Deciphering the Text

Spanning 22 volumes, the Bansenshukai serves as a compendium of ninja expertise, dissecting every facet of clandestine warfare. From the intricate mindset of a shinobi to the strategic deployment of espionage tactics, each section unveils the intricate tapestry of ninja philosophy and methodology.

## Into the Shadows: Ninja Tools Revealed

Delve into the arsenal of the ninja with the Bansenshukai's vivid descriptions of clandestine tools and techniques. From bamboo ladders to grappling hooks, each instrument was meticulously crafted to facilitate the stealthy traversal of enemy terrain and the covert infiltration of fortifications.

## Unlocking the Mysteries

While the original manuscript may have been lost to time, modern translations by scholars like Don Roley and Antony Cummins have breathed new life into the Bansenshukai. Through their efforts, contemporary readers can peer into the shadows of history and glean insights from the enigmatic world of the ninja.



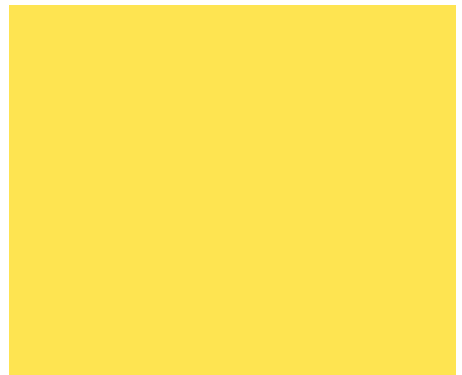
# Seven marketing strategies for your

## Get More Students

**Savvy marketing strategies tailored for success**

Running a successful martial arts club involves more than just teaching classes; it requires effective marketing strategies to attract new students and retain existing ones. By combining digital and traditional marketing methods, you can maximize your reach and grow your club while keeping costs low.

1. Optimize Your Website: Your martial arts website serves as the hub of your online presence. Ensure it's properly optimized for local SEO to improve visibility in search engine results. Utilize simple URLs for key landing pages, such as free trial offers or adult class registrations, to make it easy for potential students to find and navigate your site.





2. **Create Engaging Landing Pages:** Design dedicated landing pages with no navigation to funnel visitors towards specific offers, such as free trials or introductory classes. Craft compelling headlines that clearly convey the value of your offerings, and use persuasive, conversational copy to encourage sign-ups. Incorporate strong, clear calls-to-action (CTAs) throughout the page to prompt action from visitors.

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3. **Tailor Offers for Adults:** Instead of promoting both adult and children's programs simultaneously, create separate landing pages for each to target specific audiences effectively. Highlight the unique benefits of adult martial arts training, such as self-defense skills, stress relief, and physical fitness, to attract potential adult students.

4. **Leverage Content Marketing:** Utilize content marketing to provide valuable and relevant content that resonates with your target audience. Publish blog posts, articles, or videos addressing common questions about ninjutsu training. Share this content on your website and social media platforms to engage and educate prospective students.

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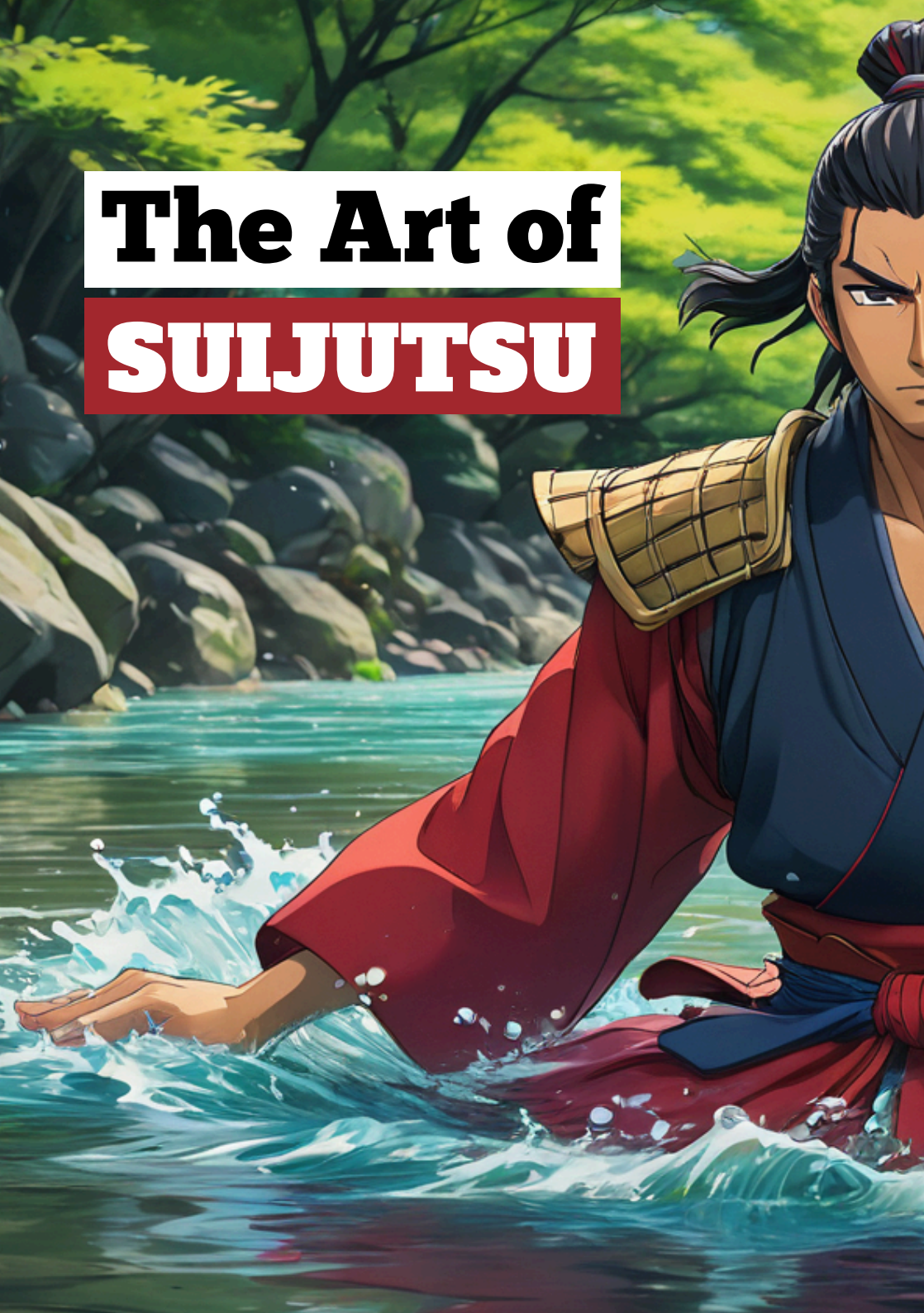
5. **Utilize Social Media:** Leverage social media platforms to showcase your club's offerings and engage with your community. Share short videos of customer testimonials, behind-the-scenes glimpses of classes, and promotional giveaways to generate interest and excitement. Encourage current students to share their experiences on social media to expand your reach organically.

6. **Host Free Demonstrations:** Organize free martial arts demonstrations at local schools, community events, or social gatherings to showcase your club's expertise and attract potential students. Offer special promotions or discounts to attendees who sign up for classes on the spot to incentivize immediate action.

7. **Implement Email Marketing:** Develop an email marketing strategy to nurture relationships with current and prospective students. Send regular newsletters with updates on class schedules, upcoming events, and special promotions. Provide valuable content, such as training tips, success stories, and exclusive offers, to keep subscribers engaged and informed.

**The Art of**

**SUIJUTSU**







**The ancient art of  
samurai swimming**



In the annals of martial history, tales of the samurai's prowess on land are legendary—but what about their skills in the water? Enter the world of Suijutsu, the ancient art of Japanese swimming, where warriors navigated rivers, moats, and oceans with the same precision and finesse as they wielded their swords. In this exploration of the samurai's aquatic arsenal, we delve into the methods, techniques, and strategic importance of Suijutsu in the warrior's toolkit.

Rooted in the turbulent warring states period, Suijutsu emerged as a strategic combination of swimming and combat techniques, designed to gain an edge in battle scenarios involving water.

From swimming in full armor to treading water while firing arrows, samurai were trained to perform a myriad of tasks while submerged—a testament to their versatility and adaptability on the battlefield.







Central to the art of Suijutsu is the concept of 'Katchu Gozen Oyogi'—swimming in full armor—a skill passed down for over three centuries. Mastering this technique requires not only physical strength but also mental fortitude, as warriors navigate the water's depths encumbered by armor weighing over 20kg.

Yet, it is precisely this challenge that hones their abilities, preparing them for the rigors of battle where every movement could mean life or death.

Among the traditional strokes of Suijutsu is the 'Ina-tobi' or flying mullet—a unique technique that propels the swimmer's upper body out of the water, allowing for enhanced visibility over long distances. Similarly, 'tachi-oyogi' enables warriors to stand and swim, facilitating tasks such as firing arrows or engaging in combat while in the water—a testament to the ingenuity and adaptability of samurai warriors. But Suijutsu is not merely about physical prowess—it is also a testament to the samurai's mental discipline and focus. Emphasizing the importance of a calm mind, practitioners of Suijutsu train in

various aquatic environments, from lakes to rivers, mastering techniques to conserve energy and navigate treacherous conditions with ease.

In the tumultuous era of warfare, Suijutsu was indispensable for clans situated near bodies of water, providing them with the ability to cross rivers swiftly, approach enemy camps undetected, and navigate the perils of the battlefield with confidence. And while the need for such skills waned in more peaceful times, Suijutsu lives on as a cherished art form, evolving into Nihon Eiho—the techniques still practiced by modern martial artists today.

INSIDE **NINJUTSU**



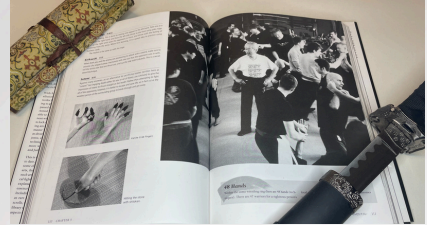


# RECOMMENDED

## 4 Books you need in your collection

**F**or practitioners seeking mastery in the Takamatsu-den arts, a journey through the literature surrounding these revered martial traditions is an essential aspect of their quest for knowledge and skill.

From the timeless wisdom of ancient combat techniques to the profound philosophy that underpins these arts, a treasure trove of insight awaits those who delve into these essential reads. Here's a closer look at four indispensable books that every student of the Takamatsu-den arts should explore:



### Unarmed Fighting Techniques of the Samurai by Masaaki Hatsumi

As the current Soke (Grandmaster) of the Bujinkan organization, Hatsumi sensei provides a comprehensive exploration of the main schools taught within the Bujinkan. Beyond mere technique, this seminal work delves into the spiritual essence of Japanese budo, guiding readers through the intricacies of combat methods passed down through generations. With step-by-step explanations and hundreds of photographs, including ancient scrolls, this book offers a profound understanding of the martial arts taught within the Bujinkan.



## **Ninja Master of the 20th Century by Dr. Kacem Zoughari**

Dr. Zoughari's scholarly examination sheds light on the life and legacy of Toshitsugu Takamatsu, offering a meticulously translated series of articles from a Japanese newspaper. Beyond historical accounts, this book unravels the hidden meanings behind Takamatsu's teachings, providing essential context and insight into the mindset of a true martial arts master. With facsimiles of original articles and comprehensive notes, this work is a must-read for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of Takamatsu's profound influence.

## **Ninpo Secrets by Shoto Tanemura**

As the head of the Genbukan, Tanemura sensei offers a comprehensive exploration of ninjutsu, spanning its history, philosophy, and practical applications. From the silent walking methods of the ninja to the intricacies of hand-to-hand combat, this book provides readers with invaluable insights and practical techniques for

mastering the art of ninjutsu. With detailed step-by-step illustrations, Tanemura sensei guides practitioners through the fundamental principles and techniques that define this ancient martial tradition.

## **Kiso No Kaizen by Stephane Meunier**

Meunier's guide serves as a practical companion for aspiring ninjutsu practitioners, offering invaluable advice on every aspect of training. From finding the right teacher to developing the correct mindset for practice, this book provides readers with essential guidance for embarking on their martial arts journey. With sections on improving flexibility, mastering basic stances, and refining striking techniques, Meunier offers readers a comprehensive roadmap for achieving mastery in the Takamatsu-den arts.







**NINJUTSU**

# Takenouchi-Ryū: A Comprehensive Overview

## Japan's Oldest Jujutsu Tradition

### Exploring the Timeless Art

In the rich tapestry of Japanese martial arts, few schools boast the historical pedigree and comprehensive curriculum of Takenouchi-ryū.

Dating back to 1532, Takenouchi-ryū stands as one of the oldest jujutsu koryū in Japan, steeped in tradition and revered for its holistic approach to combat.

Beyond its renown for jujutsu, Takenouchi-ryū encompasses a diverse array of disciplines, including staff, sword, glaive, iron fan, rope, and resuscitation techniques. Its influence reverberates through the annals of martial history, with its jujutsu techniques serving as the foundation for numerous other schools across Japan.

One distinguishing feature of Takenouchi-ryū is its inclusive approach to discipleship. Unlike many martial arts schools of its time, Takenouchi-ryū welcomed practitioners from all walks of life, transcending hereditary classes to embrace farmers, townsmen, and samurais alike. This ethos of accessibility contributed to the widespread dissemination of Takenouchi-ryū, extending its influence far beyond the realm of nobility and warriors.

At the core of Takenouchi-ryū's curriculum lies its renowned jujutsu techniques, which encompass a wide spectrum of unarmed combat skills. From grip breaking to tumbling, throwing, joint dislocation, choking and ground techniques, Takenouchi-ryū jujutsu offers a comprehensive toolkit for medieval warfare. These techniques are meticulously preserved and transmitted through kata, providing practitioners with a structured framework for training and advancement.

While unarmed jujutsu forms the cornerstone of Takenouchi-ryū, its armed grappling techniques using the short sword kogusoku are equally noteworthy.

These techniques, known as kogusoku koshi no mawari, are foundational to the school's approach to combat, offering practitioners a strategic advantage against armed opponents. It is through these techniques that the essence of Takenouchi-ryū's martial prowess is truly realized.

In addition to its core curriculum, Takenouchi-ryū has spawned several descendant schools. From Takenouchi Santoryū to Bitchū Den Takenouchi-ryū and Araki-ryū, these offshoots pay homage to the legacy of their progenitor while exploring new avenues of martial expression.

As practitioners continue to delve into its teachings and unlock its secrets, Takenouchi-ryū remains a beacon of martial excellence and a testament to the timeless wisdom of Japan's martial heritage.

