



COLLEGE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN

# CWAJ annual report 2015-2016



APRIL 2016

### Message from CWAJ's President

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings to you all. I am delighted to be bringing you a report of CWAJ's activities last year as well as some information about exciting future events.

Our very successful 60th CWAJ Print Show was held in both Tokyo and Kobe. We were deeply honored by the presence of Her Imperial Majesty the Empress at the opening reception at the Tokyo American Club on the evening of Thursday October 29th. The Empress spoke with great warmth and generosity to the artists, scholars and CWAJ members, all of whom were profoundly moved by her presence. It was an unforgettable evening for CWAJ and we were thrilled that 20 overseas members from six countries were able to join us for this significant milestone in the organization's history. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our donors, benefactors and artists for their consistent support over the past 60 years.

CWAJ's 60th Print Show will be traveling in its entirety to Highfield Hall & Gardens in Falmouth, Cape Cod, in the United States from June to September 2016. We are so grateful to everyone at Highfield Hall for all they are doing to promote the full range of CWAJ's activities, including introducing Japanese culture to the community. Many Japanese members will travel to the US to join their American and other overseas colleagues in celebrating this special occasion and recognizing the work of the members in the US who have helped realize this exhibition. We are hoping that sales will be as successful as they were in Japan, raising much-needed funds for future scholarships.

Here in Tokyo, please join us for *Intimate Dimensions*, a special print exhibition and sale from Monday September 26th – Sunday October 16th at the Tokyo American Club. And be sure not to miss the CWAJ Art Gala on Saturday October 8th!

We look forward to welcoming you to the 61st Print Show in October 2017.

In 2015, CWAJ also celebrated the 40th anniversary of Volunteers for the Visually Impaired (VVI), which continues to provide innovative programs for the visually impaired community in Japan.

It is an honor to serve as President of the College Women's Association of Japan, a volunteer organization which believes passionately in the education of women. We encourage all of our scholars to achieve their highest goals, striving with dignity and enthusiasm to make the world a better place. We are truly grateful for your interest and support that makes it possible for them to fulfill their dreams.

Best Wishes,

Miyuki Fukuma  
CWAJ President

### 60<sup>th</sup> Print Show Travelling Show in Cape Cod

**Kanreki: A 60 Year Journey**  
*The 60th CWAJ Exhibition of Contemporary Japanese Prints*  
Highfield Hall & Gardens,  
Falmouth, MA, USA

**June 26<sup>th</sup> – September 14<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Community Open House:

June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Associated programming on-going throughout summer 2016



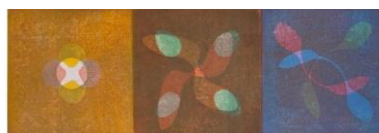
*New Beginnings*  
FUKITA  
Fumiaki

### "Intimate Dimensions" – absolute gems

In place of a full-scale Print Show, this delightful special print exhibition and sale features some 80 smaller-sized prints.

**September 26<sup>th</sup>- October 16<sup>th</sup> 2016**

at the Frederick Harris Gallery  
of the Tokyo American Club



*Division*  
KIGGELL, Ralph  
15 x 45 cm

### CWAJ Art Gala Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup> 2016

Join us for an elegant evening in support of CWAJ's Scholarship and Education Programs!  
Live entertainment, live and silent auctions of artworks and other exclusive items!

Venue: Tokyo American Club  
Time: 6:30 – 11 pm



*Bird*  
MURAI  
Masanari

# 60th CWAJ PRINT SHOW

The CWAJ Print Show, which has built a reputation for introducing contemporary Japanese prints to a sophisticated global audience, celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015. The 60<sup>th</sup> Print Show was held from Friday October 30<sup>th</sup> to Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup> at the Tokyo American Club, and the following weekend at the Kobe Club. Both shows were very well attended by the art-loving public, including a large number of international travelers.

Taking two years to plan and prepare, this landmark show featured two exhibitions: the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grand Prize Competition for aspiring young printmakers, with the top 60 entries on display, and a special exhibition, *Kanreki: A 60-Year Journey*, which traced the history of the Print Show in 161 prints by 135 invited artists. From masterpieces of the 1950s and '60s, which even today show no sign of age, to audacious and ambitious works by young artists, the show provided a unique opportunity to explore the diversity and excellence of Japanese *hanga* over the last six decades.

At the opening reception, CWAJ was honored by the presence of Her Imperial Majesty the Empress, visiting the Print Show for the first time since she attended the 25<sup>th</sup> Show in 1980. After the toast given by one of the artists, Mr Fumiaki Fukita, HIM the Empress toured the exhibition for much longer than originally scheduled. The winner of the Grand Prize, Satomi Tanaka, and other young prize winners and scholars were deeply impressed by her warm encouragement.

The Associate Show, *The Beginning of the Journey*, displayed rare prints created by some of the artists who had exhibited in the 1<sup>st</sup> CWAJ Print Show.

The Hands-on-Art program for visually impaired visitors was offered on a larger scale than usual. The frottage workshop using sculptures by Mr Koichi Ebizuka drew enthusiastic responses.

To commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, a history book titled *CWAJ Print Show: A 60-Year Journey* was prepared and published by a small group of CWAJ members. This will serve as an invaluable



resource in the study of the evolution of Japanese *hanga*.

## 2016 CWAJ Young Printmaker Award

One award of 500,000 yen

### OMORI Hiroyuki

MFA, Tohoku University of Art and Design  
Mr Omori will use the award money to purchase a copperplate press machine. He plans to establish and share a studio with other art college graduates.

The 61<sup>st</sup> Print Show will be held in October 2017. We anticipate the next 60 years with determination to build on our proud traditions and achievements.

## FUKUSHIMA RELIEF PROJECTS

Five years since the 3/11 disasters in the Fukushima area, CWAJ remains committed to helping the local community recover through programs which align with CWAJ's mission of supporting education, art and cross-cultural understanding.

### Nagomi Mental Health Care Center

The donation to Nagomi Mental Health Care Center in Soma City of a van which provides transportation for patients and facilitates home visits by mental care counselors was CWAJ's first relief project in Fukushima. In 2015 CWAJ continued to provide support by covering the insurance costs for this van.

### Fukushima Relief Scholarship

Since 2012, the Fukushima Relief Scholarship (FRS) has supported students at the Fukushima Medical University School of Nursing who are dedicated to helping their local community. This scholarship will be awarded again in 2016, with eligibility expanded to include students at the Graduate School of Nursing. The students have noted in their reports how the patients they cared for in their practicums worried about the continuing post-disaster problems such as housing, follow-up care, etc. in addition to their medical issues. Sonoko Nagasawa thanked CWAJ "for providing enthusiastic energy and hope, as well as

the financial support which enabled me to concentrate on my studies."

### Fukushima Art Projects

*Asobijutsu* (art as play) was held again for a second year in 2015. There were two programs: "Let's Draw a Unique Picture with Tools" on August 8<sup>th</sup> at the Sukagawa Chamber of Commerce Bldg, and "Make your own Flag and Catch the Wind" on August 10<sup>th</sup> at Soma City Central Children's Center.



A total of 83 children took part in these creative and fun art programs led by Professor Koichi Ebizuka of Tama Art University. One of CWAJ's Fukushima Relief Scholars, who attended to provide any necessary medical care, remarked, "Free from the usual restraints, children were simply enjoying what they were doing. I was overwhelmed by the power of their smiling faces." *Asobijutsu* has been highly praised for providing a unique, liberating and creative art experience for children in Fukushima. The program will be held again in 2016.

The Denzen Award is given to the best print from more than 3,000 works

submitted in the elementary and junior high school divisions in the Denzen Memorial Print Exhibition, held annually in Sukagawa City, Fukushima. Again in 2015, the two winners had their prints exhibited at the CWAJ Print Show and were invited to attend with their parents. The 2016 winners' prints are included in the exhibition of CWAJ's 60<sup>th</sup> Print Show at Highfield Hall & Gardens in Cape Cod this summer, along with 20 other prints from the Denzen competition.

### English Program for Children

CWAJ's English program for children in Fukushima began in 2014 and continued in 2015. CWAJ volunteers visited in March, July and December to hold a total of eight programs at PEP Kids Koriyama and one program at Aoi Mado. A total of 132 children participated, aged from two to eight. The programs included teaching vocabulary, games, storytelling, and singing songs. Each one had a multicultural theme, such as Spring/Easter, Summer/Animals, Winter/Christmas, designed to make it fun and interesting. This program will continue in 2016, as requested by PEP Kids Koriyama.



# CWAJ SCHOLARSHIP

## - Receiving and Giving for the Future

The highlight of the scholarship selection process is always the presentation of the new scholars at the May luncheon. The scholarship selection work starts in September with the orientation of the selection committee coordinators, who will guide the selection committee members through the review of the applications, interviews of the finalists and, finally, the discussion to choose the winning scholar or scholars. After that, the coordinators complete all the paperwork and prepare the scholars for the May luncheon.

In April 2015, a devastating earthquake struck Nepal, the home country of one of our new scholars, Dr Samata Tamrakar. CWAJ members collected donations during the luncheon for the earthquake victims and Samata used these funds to help at her home hospital when she returned to assist in Nepal later in May.

On Friday October 30<sup>th</sup> 2015, a scholar alumni reunion welcomed nine past scholars, including one travel grantee, as well as a number of CWAJ's past Presidents, some visiting from overseas. They all enjoyed either a docent tour or experienced Hands-on Art before the

reunion and were delighted to have this chance to appreciate the beautiful prints. After enjoying a drink and a chat with current CWAJ members, the scholars introduced themselves and talked about their current work, activities and studies.



Former CWAJ President, Marilyn Gosling, was powerfully impressed by the stories she heard and thanked the scholars for sharing their accounts of the way in which their CWAJ scholarships had changed their lives - and how their subsequent lives and work have influenced many others. "These inspiring stories remind us all of what CWAJ members work for, the ultimate purpose of Print Show and the scholar selection process." She also thanked the organizers on behalf of everyone present.

The CWAJ 60<sup>th</sup> Print Show Anniversary Scholarship was awarded in 2015 to commemorate the milestone anniversary. Generously funded by The Tokyo Club, this special scholarship was designed to encourage a non-Japanese woman graduate student majoring in fine arts or art history at a Japanese university. The scholarship recipient, Ms Wang Jie, noted that this support "will be invaluable towards my future in the field of art restoration."

While the selection process requires many volunteer hours, we would not be able to maintain CWAJ's core mission of awarding scholarships without the large and small donations we receive from individuals, groups and corporate supporters, as well as from the proceeds of the Print Show. In 2015 CWAJ was able to award nine scholarships, including two for visually impaired students and two for nursing students. Please take a look at the full list of 2015 scholars below and read more about them on the CWAJ website. Read about the Fukushima Relief Scholarship on page 2.

We invite you to continue to support CWAJ's work by making a donation in 2016. For more details, please see the information on p. 4.

## 2015 CWAJ SCHOLARS

### CWAJ 60<sup>th</sup> Print Show Anniversary Scholarship

One scholarship of 1.5 million yen (Funded by The Tokyo Club)

#### WANG, Jie (People's Republic of China)

Study Program: MA, Conservation, Department of Conservation, Graduate School of Arts, Kyoto City University of Arts



### CWAJ Graduate Scholarship for Japanese Women to Study Abroad (SA)

One scholarship of 3 million yen

#### IMAHASHI, Mayumi

Study program: Master of Public Health, University of Texas, School of Public Health (USA)

### CWAJ Cultural Exchange Graduate Scholarship for Japanese Women to Study Abroad (SA)

One scholarship of 3 million yen

#### ITABASHI, Taeko

Study Program: MSc, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism (USA) (This Scholarship is supported by the Japan Foundation)



### CWAJ Graduate Scholarship for Non-Japanese Women to Study in Japan (NJG)

#### CWAJ Sano Chikara Scholarship

One scholarship of 2 million yen

#### JUNG, Hojung (Republic of Korea)

Study program: PhD, Graduate School of information Science and Electrical Engineering, Kyushu University

### CWAJ-Tokyo American Club Women's Group Non-Japanese Graduate Scholarship

One scholarship of 2 million yen

#### TAMRAKAR, Samata (Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal)

Study Program: PhD, Neurosurgery, Osaka City University Graduate School of Medicine

### CWAJ Scholarship for the Visually Impaired to Study in Japan (SVI-SJ)

Two scholarships of 1.5 million yen each

#### IZUMI, Masayuki

Study Program: Doctor of Dentistry, Oral Physiology, Tohoku University Graduate School of Dentistry

#### TOKUMITSU, Makoto

Study Program: BA, Social Work course, Department of Urban Social Services, Faculty of Human Studies, Taisho University, 4th year student

### CWAJ Fukushima Relief Scholarship (FRS)

Two scholarships of 0.5 million yen each

Fukushima Medical University School of Nursing

**NAGASAWA, Sonoko** 4th year student  
**TAKAHASHI, Sayaka** 4th year student

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

### Volunteers for the Visually Impaired (VVI)

Another milestone for CWAJ in 2015 was VVI's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. More than 150 members and guests attended a celebration marked with inspiring speeches and performances by visually impaired alumni scholars and other guests.



VVI's core pioneering programs for the Japanese visually impaired community continued throughout 2015. At the Japan Vocational Center for the Blind, volunteers taught English conversation twice a week as part of the students' job training. At the Special Needs Education School for the Visually Impaired, University of Tsukuba, high school students were helped to prepare for the Eiken English proficiency test interview. Three issues of the VVI newsletter were distributed by email, in Braille and large print, to more than 200 visually impaired individuals. There were additionally two unique opportunities to practice English conversation in a multi-cultural setting. First, VVI was honored to be invited to the Austrian Embassy to learn firsthand about Austria from Ambassador Bernhard Zimburg. The second occasion was an outing with foreign students to experience blind bowling.

### Children's English Circle

CEC piloted two new programs in 2015 and will continue these in 2016: English programs for children living at the St Joseph Children's Home; and an after-school program at Azabu Kids-to-Teens Hall. CEC also continues its after-school sessions for Japanese elementary school children who have previously lived abroad, helping them to retain their English language skills.

### Foreign Students' Circle (FSC)

Origami, outdoor tea ceremony, Kabuki, and tours of the Yasuda Residence in the Yanaka area and Shomyoji Temple were some of the Japanese cultural experiences enjoyed by 26 foreign students through FSC programs. They also took part in bowling with CWAJ's visually impaired community in a joint program organized with VVI. Foreign students are also given social and practical support by FSC volunteers.

## CULTURAL PROGRAMS

The 60<sup>th</sup> CWAJ Print Show was a momentous landmark and we celebrated yearlong. It all began in April at the Andaz Hotel when an audience of 150 gathered to hear guest speaker, Norman Tolman, renowned gallery owner and Japanese print expert, weave the story of his early years in Japan with the rise of CWAJ and its pivotal role in promoting Japanese prints in Japan and around the world. Attendees were thrilled to receive a complimentary copy from Mr Tolman of his book, *Collecting Modern Japanese Prints, Then and Now*. 2005 SVI scholar Makoto Ogoda also spoke, crediting his mother and CWAJ for helping him achieve his dream to be a lawyer.



The celebration continued in May with "A Jazzy Afternoon with Kyoko Takano". Formerly a member of the Takarazuka Revue Company (as Ray Sanjyo), Kyoko is now an active member of CWAJ. She performed jazz numbers, arias and Takarazuka classics with opera singer Mariko Nishigawa. Kaerutachi, a chanson bar in Ginza, was filled to beyond capacity for both shows, making this a highly enjoyable and successful fundraiser for CWAJ.



And then in October, during the week of the exciting CWAJ 60<sup>th</sup> Print Show, a number of special cultural events were held for overseas visitors to enjoy with local members: a lecture and workshop about *washi*, a walking tour of Kamakura and Enoshima hosted by the Hiking Group, and a three-day trip to Matsue and Izumo Grand Shrine. The "reunion" dinner on Saturday night reunited more than 80 members from around the world.

Monthly luncheon programs featured impressive speakers on a wide spectrum of issues. In CWAJ's special interest groups, members had fun learning and sharing their cultures in a variety of programs that included ceramics, hiking, French and Japanese conversation, crafting, choral singing, and book discussion.

## OTHER FUNDRAISING

The 2015 Raffle was a great success, with the draw taking place on the final day of the Print Show. CWAJ would like to express its sincere appreciation to all sponsors of raffle prizes, particularly Turkish Airlines, which contributed two round-trip business class tickets to any of its destinations around the world. In addition to Print Show proceeds, donations and the Raffle, funds are also raised via the Cultural Programs, and VVI and CEC activities.

### Fund the Future!

By supporting the CWAJ Scholarship and Education Programs and the CWAJ Fukushima Relief Projects, you can make a genuine and long-lasting impact on the lives of individuals and communities both in Japan and beyond. CWAJ welcomes donations of any amount throughout the year.

The support of the Japan Foundation Designated Donation Program enables CWAJ to award more scholarships to women graduate students who have chosen to study abroad. A tax deduction receipt from the Japan Foundation is available for donors to CWAJ who file tax return forms in Japan.

For further information about making a donation to CWAJ, please contact one of the Donations/Sponsorships Co-Chairs, Michiyo Ikenaga or Laura Malory:

[donations@cwaj.org](mailto:donations@cwaj.org)

### About CWAJ

Founded in 1949, the College Women's Association of Japan (CWAJ) promotes education and cross-cultural exchange through its scholarship programs, the annual Print Show, and other programs that benefit the community. A volunteer, not-for-profit organization, CWAJ has 450 members from 30 different countries who work together in a unique system of pairing Japanese and non-Japanese members to provide leadership in every area of activity. Offering opportunities for women from all over the world to share valuable cultural experiences, CWAJ provides a long-term link with Japan as well as the immediate benefits of a wide range of activities in and around Tokyo.

Interested in joining CWAJ? Please contact [membership@cwaj.org](mailto:membership@cwaj.org) for more information. If you know of former CWAJ members who have repatriated and may be interested in becoming an overseas member, please contact

[cwajoverseas@cwaj.org](mailto:cwajoverseas@cwaj.org).



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