



COLLEGE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN

CWAJ

ANNUAL REPORT
2017-2018

APRIL 2018

CWAJ's Fukushima Programs Awarded

Governor's Award of Appreciation

In April 2017 CWAJ was very honored to receive the Governor's Award of Appreciation from Dr Shin'ichi Niwa on behalf of Fukushima Governor Masao Uchibori in recognition of CWAJ's immediate and continued support of Fukushima following the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. Dr Niwa also presented CWAJ with a specially-made pair of *okiagari koboshi*, papier-mâché dolls that recover their upright position when pushed over, a beautiful symbol of Fukushima's recovery from adversity. Following the ceremony, Dr Niwa gave an inspiring update on Fukushima's recovery efforts.

Fukushima Relief Scholarships (FRS)

Since the launch of the FRS program in 2012, Fukushima Relief Scholarships have supported 13 nursing students at Fukushima Medical University School of Nursing and its Graduate School. Two additional recipients have been selected for the 2018-19 academic year. Like all CWAJ scholarships, FRS have no age limit; they support talented undergraduates as well as empower older students and students with families to achieve their dreams.

Fukushima Art Project

In the summer of 2017 CWAJ volunteers returned to Soma and Sukagawa with Professor Ebizuka of Tama Art University and his staff to hold *Asobijutsu* ("Art as Play") programs. This year's theme was "Create many colors and let them shine".

Each child created a unique array of blended colors, which were then used to paint fantastic paper lampshades. Once all were finished, the room was darkened and the lamps were turned on. What a beautiful display of color brightened the room! *Asobijutsu* will be held again in summer 2018.

Mr Ren Otani of the Soma Kokoro-no-Care Center and Nagomi Mental Health Clinic helped greatly in both Soma and Sukagawa by chauffeuring CWAJ volunteers and actively taking part in both programs. Supporting Nagomi Health Care Center was CWAJ's first Fukushima Relief Project. In Sukagawa, Sonoko Nagasawa (2013-15 Fukushima Relief Scholar) kindly came again to help with *Asobijutsu*. What wonderful synergy!



Special English Program for Children

Before the *Asobijutsu* session, four CWAJ volunteers led a fun program in English for 20 children at the Soma City Central Children's Center. This included learning color and animal vocabulary, action songs, and games. At storytelling time, the book *Going on a Lion Hunt* was read to the children. Afterwards everyone imaginatively acted out their own adventures, going through mud, trees, and a river to arrive at a cave to find a lion, then running quickly back to safety. The children took home their origami craft animal and color game as a souvenir of the day's fun English lesson.



Denzen Award

The Denzen Award, an art competition for elementary and middle school students, honors Aoudou Denzen, an Edo-period artist born in Sukagawa. Since 2013 CWAJ has invited the top winner in each age category to attend the Print Show with their parents. It will be exciting to see the young artists and their dynamic prints at Daikanyama this fall.



SAVE THE DATES

62nd CWAJ Print Show
Hillside Forum, Daikanyama, Tokyo
Weds Oct 31 – Sun Nov 4 2018

For the second time, we are exhibiting at the beautiful, light-filled Hillside Forum in Daikanyama! Make a note of the dates and plan to join us for this renowned exhibition and sale of contemporary Japanese prints.

CWAJ Associate Show
"Beyond the First Impression"
Prints from Cover Artists
Tues Oct 16 – Mon Nov 5 2018.

This year's exhibition will focus on catalogue cover artists from the long history of the CWAJ Print Show. Frederick Harris Gallery, Tokyo American Club.

"Earthy Delights: Selections from the 61st CWAJ Print Show"

During the summer of 2018, Jun 20 – Sep 3 fifty prints from the 61st Print Show will be exhibited and sold at Highfield Hall & Gardens in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

CWAJ 61st PRINT SHOW: New Venue Attracts a Wider Audience



In October 2017, the 61st CWAJ Print Show was launched at the Hillside Forum Gallery in the fashionable Tokyo district of Daikanyama.

This exhibition and sale of original contemporary Japanese prints presented 209 artworks. Most of these had been selected by a prestigious jury, with the balance contributed by 26 invited artists. The show ran for five days, Wednesday 25 – Sunday 29 October.



The decision to move to a new venue was not made lightly and presented many challenges. However, when the resulting show opened, it was highly acclaimed and well attended. Moving to a new area introduced CWAJ and this beautiful art form to a new audience. The artwork was professionally and sympathetically displayed and enhanced by the white walls and natural light of the gallery.

We welcomed locals and expats, students and tourists, many different nationalities and different age groups. There was a steady flow of visitors throughout the five days of the show. The docent tours provided in English and Japanese were popular and greatly increased the enjoyment and understanding of the prints.



In addition to the prints in the main show, there was a display of “Hands-on Art (HOA)”. This is a unique program designed primarily for visually impaired visitors and a regular feature of the CWAJ Print Show. It was also appreciated by many sighted visitors. This year, five images were chosen and made into raised images.



Three works by the 2016 recipient of the Young Printmaker Award, Ikumi Okada, were featured in the show. Her beautiful moody image, “Night on the Opposite Shore”, was chosen for the cover of the 2017 catalogue and the artist was present to sign copies for purchasers.

All in all, this move to Hillside Forum Gallery has been hugely successful and has rekindled the joy of the CWAJ Print Show for members and artists alike.

Associate Show

In keeping with past traditions, CWAJ’s Associate Show was presented at the Frederick Harris Gallery at the Tokyo American Club, September 26 – October 16. This meticulously curated small show called “Chiseled Variations” comprised 31 works showcasing the exciting diversity of contemporary Japanese woodblock printing.

CWAJ Print Show in Kobe

Following the main Print Show in Daikanyama, a dedicated team of CWAJ members took 63 of the prints to Kobe for an exhibition and sale at the Kobe Club. This show ran from November 15 – 19 and was also very successful. This was the third time that CWAJ presented a Print Show in Kobe, serving to maintain the treasured friendships between CWAJ and the Kobe community.

2018 CWAJ Young Printmaker Award

1 award of 500,000 yen

■ NISHIMURA Ryo

Kyoto City University of Art, MA
2nd year student.

Mr Nishimura plans to use the award money to buy a 1- meter wide woodblock or copper print machine, which he often uses for his work.



Message from CWAJ’s President

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the College Women’s Association of Japan (CWAJ), I would like to convey our deep gratitude for your warm support in helping us make 2017 a great success.



After celebrating its “Kanreki” (“rebirth”) anniversary in October 2015, the CWAJ Print Show embarked on a new era with the 61st Show held for the first time at the fashionable Hillside Forum in Daikanyama. At this new venue the revitalized Print Show was very well received and offered an opportunity to introduce CWAJ to a wider community including many young and multicultural visitors. The many positive comments from artists and guests have encouraged us to continue Print Show at the same venue in 2018.

The CWAJ Art and Scholarship Celebration also held last October enticed people to attend the Print Show and raised much-needed funds for CWAJ’s scholarship programs.

Another highlight in 2017 was the news that CWAJ had received an Award of Appreciation from the Governor of Fukushima Prefecture in recognition of the Fukushima Relief Projects that were launched in 2011 immediately after the Great East Japan Earthquake. If you haven’t already done so, please read the Fukushima Relief Projects report on the cover page for more details on the award and CWAJ’s continued support for the people of Fukushima.

In 2019 CWAJ will commemorate its 70th anniversary. Established by two American and two Japanese women in 1949, soon after the end of World War II, CWAJ has tirelessly served the community by awarding scholarships to Japanese and non-Japanese women graduate students,

to visually impaired men and women, to print artists, and most recently to graduate and undergraduate men and women studying nursing at Fukushima Medical University. CWAJ also provides educational and cross-cultural programs and presents CWAJ’s annual Print Show, an exhibition and sale of high-quality contemporary Japanese prints. The Print Show is CWAJ’s major fundraiser, providing most of the resources needed to fund its scholarship programs.

We are proud of our long history and of our unchanging mission to serve the community through shared goals and multicultural friendships. In 2018, CWAJ will continue to work with passion to fulfill our mission to the community.

We will be extremely grateful for your continued support as well your invaluable guidance and encouragement.

With best regards,

Reiko Oshima
2018 CWAJ President

CWAJ SCHOLARSHIP

A Celebration of Excellence and the Excellent

Our 2017 scholars were from disciplines that were as varied as they were exciting and meaningful. The aim of the CWAJ scholarships is to empower change, inspire leadership and inculcate a spirit of giving back to the community - and each scholarship recipient in 2017 embodied the core principles behind this mission. Indeed, at the May luncheon, Saule Zholdayakova (NJG) stated that "Educating a woman means educating a generation" - and this joint emphasis on



education and leadership tied together the aims of all our scholarship recipients. In addition three scholarship recipients from

previous years - Dragana Lazic, Ellie Bae and Alba Zamarbide (NJG, 2016) and Arei Shirai (SA, 2011) - spoke about their respective post-scholarship journeys, providing inspiration to the new scholars and the audience alike. In sum, the afternoon was a celebration of excellence and the excellent!



The May luncheon is inarguably the highlight of the scholarship year. But the work of the scholarship committee begins in September the previous year when a group of dedicated and enthusiastic CWAJ members embarks upon the exciting process of selecting the recipients of the various categories of scholarships. First the selection committee coordinators receive an orientation. They then guide the selection committee members through the review of the applications, interviews of the shortlisted candidates and, finally, the discussion to determine

the winning scholars. It is a diligent and thorough process ensuring that the most commendable applicants in each category. 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 2017 CWAJ was able to award nine scholarships, including two for visually impaired students and three for nursing students in Fukushima. The Women's Group at the Tokyo American Club once again funded a full scholarship for a non-Japanese graduate. Please take a look at the full list of 2017 scholars below and read more about them on the CWAJ website. The details about the Fukushima Relief Scholarships are on the cover page.

We invite you to continue to support CWAJ's work by making a donation in 2018. For more details, please see the information on p. 4

2017 CWAJ SCHOLARS



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

One scholarship of 3 million yen

■ **HIROSE, Shoko**

MA, Social-Organizational Psychology, Teachers College, Columbia University (USA)

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

One scholarship of 3 million yen

■ **SHIMA, Aki**

MA, Criminology and Social Research, University of York (UK)

CWAJ Cultural Exchange Sano Chikara Graduate Scholarship for Non-Japanese Women to Study in Japan (NJG)

One scholarship of 2 million yen

■ **GHIMIRE, Mamata (Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal)**

PhD, Healthcare Policy and Management, Graduate School of Comprehensive Human Sciences, University of Tsukuba

CWAJ-Tokyo American Club Women's Group Graduate Scholarship for Non-Japanese Women to Study in Japan (NJG)

One scholarship of 2 million yen

■ **ZHOLDAYAKOVA, Saule (Republic of Kazakhstan)**

PhD, Technology and Science, Graduate School of Technology and Science, Tokai University

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

Two scholarships of 1.5 million yen each

■ **KANEKO, Ririna**

Bachelor's Degree, Political Science, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Sophia University

■ **MORI, Yudai**

Bachelor's Degree, Department of Business Administration, Faculty of Economics, Niigata University

CWAJ Fukushima Relief Scholarship (FRS)

Three scholarships of 500,000 yen each

■ **KANNO, Noriko**

MSN, Oncology Nursing, Graduate School of Nursing, Fukushima Medical University

■ **MORI, Miyuki**

MSN, Maternity Nursing, Graduate School of Nursing, Fukushima Medical University

■ **USUI, Yuka**

3rd year student, School of Nursing, Fukushima Medical University

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

Volunteers for the Visually Impaired (VVI)

The VVI group continues to provide much-appreciated services to the visually impaired community. The twice-weekly English language lessons at the Japan Vocational Development Center for the Blind increase the participants' job skills. Tsukuba High School students benefit from the mock interviews held as part of their preparation for the Eiken English proficiency test. This year's three English conversation gatherings focused on the histories of New Zealand and Egypt, and the music of Brazil, and were attended by more than 60 people on each occasion. The VVI newsletter contains program information and reports on other topics of interest. It is sent to more than 100 VI friends by email and other means.

Foreign Students' Circle (FSC)

Listening and watching are the usual ways in which university students learn a subject. FSC takes the next step and facilitates practical opportunities for foreign students to experience Japanese culture, customs, and history. Previous events have included kabuki, origami, temple and shrine visits, and several types of tea ceremony. FSC is a fun way for foreign students and CWAJ members to interact and learn about each other's cultures and customs. FSC mentors also take care of students individually by providing advice about living in Japan, inviting them to other events, and offering general support.



Children's Special Project

With the closing of the CSP, CWAJ wishes to thank everyone who has supported our children's programs over the years. CWAJ is in the process of evaluating how we can best use our limited resources to serve the changing needs of our community.

CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Members enjoyed two Cultural Program events in 2017. The first was a visit to the Yamatane Museum of Art in Hiroo, Tokyo, on Saturday June 3. The Museum's Director, Dr Taeko Yamazaki, gave an introduction to the museum, which is renowned for its collection of Japanese art. Curator Minako Takahashi then gave an overview of Japanese painting. The talks were followed by a gallery tour focusing on paintings from the ongoing exhibition, "A World of Flowers - from Rimpa School to Contemporary Art." The entire program was conducted in English. Participants enjoyed the afternoon viewing some exquisite Japanese paintings and also tasted tea and confectionery themed around some of the exhibits.

The second event took place at the Brazilian Embassy on Saturday November 11. CWAJ was privileged to hold a cultural evening there thanks to the kind hospitality of His Excellency Ambassador Andre Aranha Corrêa Do Lago and Madam Béatrice Corrêa Do Lago. A commemorative exhibition entitled "Eternal Bond: 50 Years of Time from the First Visit to Brazil by Their Majesties the Emperor and the Empress" was on view. A special lecture by the Minister, Mr. Augusto Pestana accompanied by wide-ranging archive material deepened participants' understanding of the impact of the visit and the friendship between the two countries. The evening concluded with a reception, where a wonderful spread of Brazilian delicacies delighted everyone.



Special Member Activities

In September last year, there was a special afternoon event featuring one of CWAJ's very distinguished members, Tamako Takamatsu, well known for her very high-profile work as an interpreter and NHK personality. More than 50 CWAJ members attended, welcoming the opportunity to hear more about Tamako's career and her message of encouragement for women to pursue their dreams.



CWAJ ART & SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION

The CWAJ Art and Scholarship Celebration held at the Tokyo American Club on October 5 2017 was a big success! Just over 100 guests joined us and thoroughly enjoyed a silent auction of vintage prints and other artworks, travel and dining experiences and more, as well as a premium wine-tasting and wine raffle, live music from the ASIJ Jazz Band, and, of course, delicious food. Attendees enthusiastically and generously participated in both the silent auction and wine raffle, which ultimately raised 1.3 million yen to support CWAJ's scholarship and education programs. CWAJ would again like to thank all donors, guests, volunteers, and supporters who made the CWAJ Art and Scholarship Celebration such a memorable occasion!

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, donations@cwaj.org

About CWAJ

Founded in 1949, 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 support the community. A volunteer, not-for-profit organization, CWAJ has 450 members from over 20 countries who work together in many diverse areas 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 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



CWAJ College Women's Association of Japan

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