

My name is Kit Brooks and I'm currently working as the Japan Foundation Assistant Curator of Japanese Art at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, which is part of the Smithsonian Institutions in Washington D.C. It's a great museum with an amazing collection and a lot of history, so I am very happy to be here—even if I am working from home at the moment! (due to COVID-19). I do really miss being around the art, but all the staff are busy planning exhibitions and working on our own research projects. I'm actually preparing two *sōsaku hanga* shows that will take place at the museum in the next few years. I'm also getting used to giving lectures on Zoom and other virtual platforms. I think it's great that we can still have conversations about art with the public, even when we are separated from each other.

**-What is your relationship with CWAJ (scholar, volunteer or something else)?
Both your current position/situation and any previous involvement, please.**

I was a recipient of the IUC scholarship in 2009 and became involved in print show for several years afterwards, including a period of time when I attended Waseda University as part of my PhD research. But actually, I first “met” the CWAJ when I worked at the British Museum. One of my first jobs there was to re-house the prints from the 1985 CWAJ print show that were given to the museum after the exhibition. So, I feel like the CWAJ has been with me for a very long time.

-What are your goals for the future (professional or personal)?

I hope very much to continue working with Japanese art as the main focus of my career. I am constantly learning new information and being exposed to new areas of artmaking. It never gets boring. Personally, I want to own several dogs, and also take up woodworking, but I need more living space to achieve both those things!

-What would you say to your younger self if you had the chance?

Take more photos! It's easy to remember the big events in your life, but it's the everyday interactions and places that are harder to picture in your memory after several years have passed. Also, start learning Japanese earlier! Age 24 is much too late, haha.

-What would you like to say to the current members or future scholars of the CWAJ?

Your experiences with CWAJ will enrich your life in ways you won't predict. When I received the scholarship to learn the Japanese language at the Inter-University Center over a decade ago, I wouldn't have imagined the ways in which my time with the CWAJ and my friendships with its members would continue to affect my life. Not only in terms

of *sōsaku hanga* and all the things I learned from Naoko Yagura, Patricia Hiramatsu, and other members of Print Show committee, but in my work on Edo period art I often recall moments from kabuki plays that I saw in person thanks to Akiko Tatsuke, and I am surrounded by many beautiful museum catalogues that were gifted to me over the years by Reiko Nagase and Peggy Kanada. For these and so many other memories that it would be impossible for me to list, I am very grateful.