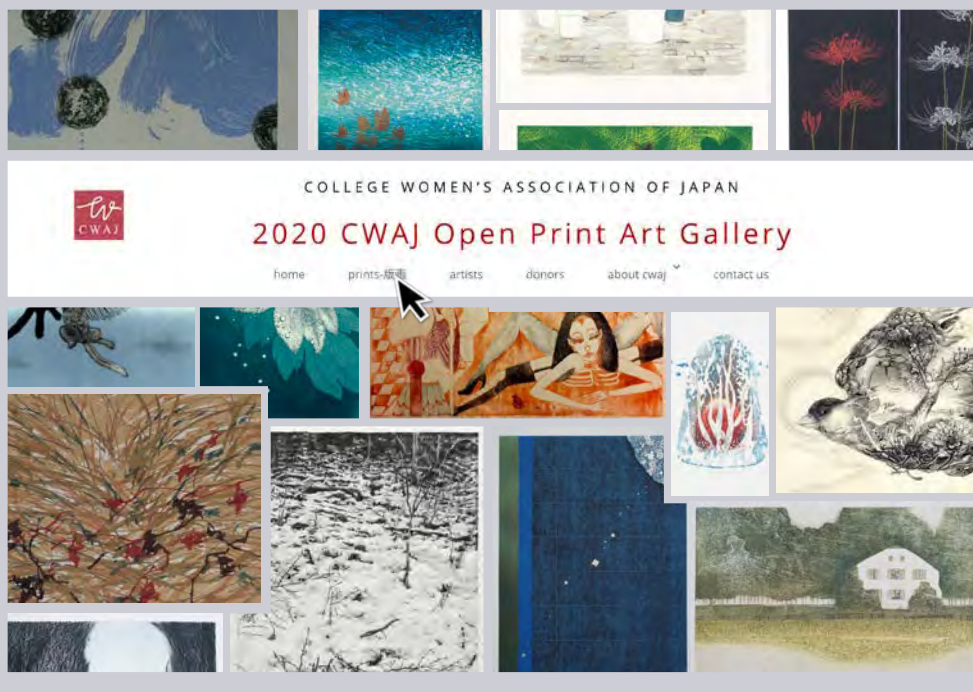




COLLEGE WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN

2020 - 2021 Annual Report

MARCH 2021



CWAJ Open Print Art Gallery

The women of CWAJ have, from the inception of our organization, found possibilities in the face of challenges, and we were certainly presented with significant challenges in 2020. The most visible example of our ability to find opportunity in difficult times is the CWAJ Open Print Art Gallery (OPAG), our first virtual exhibition and sale of contemporary Japanese print art.

The CWAJ Print Show is an internationally acclaimed annual event that has taken place in a spacious gallery in Tokyo 63 times since 1956. It has become known as an eagerly anticipated, not-to-be-missed event in the Tokyo arts calendar, but it is also so much more. The Print Show supports Japanese artists and promotes contemporary Japanese print art, with all proceeds going toward funding CWAJ scholarships. Given the importance of this mission, our members were determined that circumstances would not force the cancellation of this extraordinary show. Working together, CWAJ members found the courage to be innovative with the beloved Print Show and converted it into an online format.

Transforming the in-person CWAJ Print Show was a tremendous success thanks to CWAJ volunteers who worked tirelessly and collaboratively to offer 231 artists a platform to exhibit their work on the beautiful digital CWAJ Open Print Art Gallery. Members and guests who visited the site perused a collection of 235 gorgeous prints and made purchases from the comfort of their own homes. The virtual nature of the OPAG afforded CWAJ overseas members a very special way to reconnect with the Print Show and to purchase prints. International sales were robust, exemplifying the appreciation for Japanese print art outside Japan that CWAJ has fostered for more than six decades.

The OPAG even included an online guided tour, which is a popular aspect of the CWAJ Print Show that offers a personal touch.

Although the OPAG was planned as an all virtual experience, we were fortunate to partner with AoyamaTreehouse and hold a small, yet lovely, one night only, in-person kick-off event for AoyamaTreehouse members and CWAJ donors. AoyamaTreehouse is an innovative space infused with creativity where CWAJ exhibited a selection of prints that were offered for sale. Katsutoshi Yuasa gave a fascinating lecture about his printmaking technique at the event.

Following the reception at AoyamaTreehouse, CWAJ member Marie Ando graciously agreed to exhibit those same prints at Gallery Takanawa AO, a space that Marie and her husband, Yoichi, own in Tokyo.

Launching the OPAG illustrates the dedication and determination of the women of CWAJ. Throughout these pages, you will read about dynamic CWAJ members finding possibilities all through 2020.



NBA star **Rui Hachimura** and **Taisho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.** teamed up in March 2021 to make a generous donation to CWAJ! Hachimura said,

"I believe there should be more opportunities for women to have active roles in society and with this donation, I hope to help women reach their dreams and goals."

FUND THE FUTURE

Make a genuine and long-lasting impact on the lives of women, people with a visual impairment, and communities both in Japan and beyond by supporting the CWAJ Scholarship and Education Programs. In 2021, CWAJ will also award a special scholarship, the CWAJ Pandemic Response Scholarship for Nursing Students, which further promotes CWAJ's mission of education.

CWAJ welcomes donations of any amount throughout the year. With the support of the Japan Foundation Designated Donations program, a tax deduction receipt 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

SAVE THE DATE

64th

CWAJ PRINT SHOW

Wednesday to Sunday, October 20-24, 2021
Hillside Forum, Daikanyama, Tokyo

ONLINE GALLERY

Friday to Sunday, October 15-31, 2021

<https://cwaj-gallery.jp/>



CWAJ wishes to express our deepest sympathy to everyone who has lost a loved one due to COVID-19. Our hearts go out to the healthcare and frontline workers whose tireless efforts are keeping our communities safe, to all who have suffered illness, to everyone who has struggled economically, and to all who are coping with the stresses, changes and disruptions to usual life that have been necessary during the ongoing pandemic.



Left to right: original "Bare Piano" and raised image version of the artwork.



Clockwise from top left, 1966 First lithography experience, 2005 50th CWAJ Print Show opening with Princess Akishino, 2013 CWAJ Print Show, 2009 CWAJ Associate Show opening

Artist Talk with HIROTA Raifu

Hands-on Art (HoA), a much-loved feature of the CWAJ Print Show since 1996, provides raised images that offer visitors who are visually impaired an opportunity to engage with print art along with sighted visitors.

In conjunction with the **Open Print Art Gallery**, HoA held a virtual Artist Talk with Raifu Hirota on October 24. Mr. Hirota, a highly regarded artist from Kanagawa, is known for his colorful music-themed linocuts. His print, "Bare Piano," was produced as a raised image, and sent to 26 visually impaired guests by post before the lecture.

Mr. Hirota's presentation was delightfully engaging. He shared the secrets of his fabulous colors with all 110 participants by taking us through successive stages of the production with work-in-progress images from "Bare Piano." CWAJ member, Michiko Okubo, provided an impeccable interpretation.

After the presentation, visually impaired participants and CWAJ members engaged in an interesting conversation gathering with the artist. Mr. Hirota answered everyone's questions with his usual charm. Thank you so much, Mr. Hirota!

Comment from a pianist who is visually impaired:

"As the artist's work was a piano, I participated with great fascination. First of all, thank you for sending me the raised image in advance so I could observe it thoroughly. When I received it, I immediately counted the black keys on the print and was surprised that the printed piano was faithfully reproduced even though it was in A4 size. I listened to Hirota's talk with great interest. I thought that because the piano was painted in bright red, it shouldn't be different to the touch, but somehow it gave me a different impression. I think this is because I was able to see colors until I was about 20 years old. I was fascinated by the color of the strings when I heard that he layered many colors."

CWAJ Pandemic Response Scholarship for Nursing Students (NS)

CWAJ announced the Pandemic Response Scholarship for Nursing Students in response to the needs of our community. Members sprang into action upon learning that nursing students were facing financial hardship as they had to give up part-time work to avoid the risk of viral infection. Japan needs women graduating from nursing school who are qualified to fill these vital roles.

Drawing on our long history of awarding scholarships, particularly the Fukushima Relief Scholarship, CWAJ volunteers incorporated this new scholarship for nurses into our donations drive. Response from both applicants and donors was vigorous. CWAJ is pleased to award six scholarships of ¥500,000 each to women studying nursing in Tokyo Metropolitan Area Universities and Fukushima Medical School for the 2021-2022 academic year.

The CWAJ Board of Directors voted unanimously to extend this response scholarship for another year.

In Memoriam: SHINODA Toko (March 28, 1913 – March 1, 2021)

CWAJ mourns the loss of Toko Shinoda, one of the leading Japanese artists of the 20th century and a true supporter of CWAJ and its core mission. Shinoda praised the role that CWAJ played in promoting Japanese print art, and encouraged fellow printmakers to participate in the CWAJ Print Show. On more than 50 occasions beginning in 1966, she contributed her own artwork to the CWAJ Print Show, as well as to special exhibitions sponsored by CWAJ. She graciously spoke at several CWAJ events, including the kick-off luncheon for the 40th CWAJ Print Show, at which she revealed that the origin of her art was her childhood experience of sprinkling water outside and watching the stones and soil change color when hit by the droplets.

CWAJ expresses its profound respect for Shinoda and her support of CWAJ, as well as its sincere gratitude for the wonderment that she delivered through her works and her words of encouragement.



Message from the President

Dear Friends,

CWAJ members have continued to promote education, art and friendship, and to meet the needs of our community by finding possibilities when so much seemed impossible throughout 2020, an unprecedented year. We had the security to be flexible and innovative because of the strong foundation that was built over our 71 year history by women who volunteered their efforts on behalf of our organization. Of course, we were able to act on all of these possibilities because of generous contributions from donors like you. CWAJ is especially gratified by the robust donations that allowed us to carry out our scholarship program and to offer six new Pandemic Response Scholarship for Nursing Students. Thank you for your continued support.

It has been an honor and a lot of fun to serve as president of this dynamic organization. The women of CWAJ were an inspiration every day of 2020. Please join us if you would like the opportunity to learn more about Japanese culture, participate in interesting projects and form lifelong friendships.

Jane Grimes
CWAJ President



Scholarships = Possibilities!

New possibilities can be revealed in the face of difficult circumstances. The Scholarship Committee faced the challenges of 2020 and welcomed wonderful learning opportunities, such as including overseas members on scholarship selection committees and creating the Pandemic Response Scholarship for Nursing Students, which was greeted with much enthusiasm by members and donors alike.

The Scholarship Committee introduced all seven 2020 Scholars during our first-ever online presentation at our May general meeting, with 160 attendees, including past scholars, overseas members, members of the press and other guests. Two past scholars, Ririna Kaneko (SVI-SJ 2017) and Saule Zholdayakova (NJG 2017), spoke about how their CWAJ scholarships provided them with numerous opportunities.

Every CWAJ scholarship comes with possibilities, and in some cases, even more prospects than the scholar had originally imagined. We are particularly proud and gratified when a CWAJ Scholar thrives. Notably, three past SVI-SJ Scholars earned their PhDs in 2020:

PhD awardees in 2020



NAKAMURA, Masaya (2014) PhD in Special Education: Mr. Nakamura was a high school teacher when he lost his eyesight, but not his passion for education. He has published his thesis and donated a copy to CWAJ.

IZUMI, Masayuki (2015) PhD in Dentistry: Mr. Izumi is determined to encourage the independence of those living with disability by being a positive role model. His accomplishment is a tremendous example.

HANDA, Kozue (2007) PhD in Art: Ms. Handa considers disability not as a disadvantage, but something that provides a unique understanding. Her goal is to create more fulfilling methods of appreciation and learning for all visitors to cultural exhibits and museums in Japan.

Congratulations to two more CWAJ Scholars who completed their degrees:

TAKAHASHI, Misaki (SA 2018) received her MSc in Forest and Nature Conservation from Wageningen University & Research in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

SHIIMA, Yuko (CWAJ 70th Anniversary SA 2019) received her Masters in Medical Research from Brighton and Sussex Medical School in the United Kingdom.

Another SVI-SJ Scholar, **YANASHIMA, Shun (2019)**, was chosen as one of five recipients of the Nakajima Hiraku Scholarship for mathematical studies.

(See below for the meaning of the Scholarship abbreviations.)



2021 CWAJ Young Printmaker Award (YPA)

CWAJ established the Young Printmaker Award (YPA) in 2005 as part of the 50th Print Show celebration to encourage the development of young artists. Eligible applicants are the creators of the top prints selected at the Annual Exhibition of the Association of Japan Art Colleges held every year in December at the Machida City Museum of Graphic Arts. The recipient of this annual award of 500,000 yen is selected based on his/her project proposal, artistic potential and creativity.

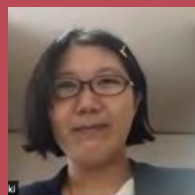
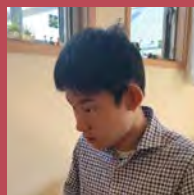
2021 YPA Winner OHYAMA, Kanna

Tokyo Zokei University
(Graduated March 2021)



Congratulations 2020 CWAJ Scholars!!

CWAJ awarded scholarships in the following categories for the 2020-2021 academic year:



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

(Supported by the Japan Foundation)
¥3 million; one recipient

KAWABATA, Sayoko

PhD Occupational Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (USA)

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

¥3 million; one recipient

USHIO, Sayo

MA International Child Studies, Faculty of Social Science and Public Policy, King's College London (UK)

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

¥2 million; two recipients

ABUSHAMMALAH, Noor J. E. (State of Palestine)

PhD Women's Rights, Graduate School of Integrated Sciences for Global Society, Kyushu University

ARABADZHEVA, Polina Dimitrova (Republic of Bulgaria)

MA International Business and Development, Sophia University

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

¥1.5 million; two recipients

FUJIMOTO, Masahiro

4th year, English and American Literature (Linguistics), Rikkyo University

SUGIURA, Yuki

4th year, Contemporary Childhood Studies (English pedagogy), Kinjo Gakuin University

CWAJ Fukushima Relief Scholarship (FRS)

¥0.5 million; one recipient

YAMAGUCHI, Ayumi

3rd year student, Fukushima Medical University School of Nursing



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteers for the Visually Impaired (VVI)

English Conversation Gatherings (ECG) offer opportunities for Japanese individuals who are visually impaired to discuss specific topics in English with CWAJ members. Starting in May 2020, ECG took a giant leap and moved these exciting events to a virtual platform. All three Virtual ECGs, focused on Hobbies (May), Food (August), Traditions (December), were extremely successful. ECG partnered with Hands-on Art to sponsor an artist talk by Hirota Raifu in connection with the Open Print Art Gallery in October that was popular and well-attended.

Between 14 and 22 visually-impaired guests took part in each virtual event, which included presentations and conversation in small groups in breakout rooms. ECG provided Zoom training to guests unfamiliar with the platform, and mailed a tactile object, such as a raised image of print art for the artist talk or a cut paper snowflake for the discussion of traditions, to participants in advance of an event to increase their engagement with the presentations.

ECG has received incredible feedback from guests who are visually impaired, who enjoyed participating in discussions in breakout rooms with native English speakers and other visually impaired guests of similar English language ability. Virtual ECGs have made it possible for overseas CWAJ members to participate in VVI activities, and have increased opportunities for guests with visual impairment to join in from their homes without the challenges of traveling to a venue.

In 2021, we plan to offer both in-person and virtual ECG.

Other VVI activities include English classes at **Japan Vocational Development Center for the Blind (JVDCB)** (photo top left), **Tsukuba Eiken Mock Interview Program** at Special Needs Education School for the Visually Impaired, University of Tsukuba, **VVI Newsletter** distributed to 200 visually impaired friends, and English conversation classes at **Japan Braille Library**.

Foreign Students' Circle (FSC)

FSC volunteers typically mentor foreign university students and introduce them to Japanese cultural experiences, but this year embraced the opportunity to flip the program on its head. FSC held virtual events in which foreign students introduced their countries to each other and CWAJ members. They spoke passionately about personal history, geography, culture, food, everyday life, and even recommended the best spots to visit. These conversations transported participants around the world while staying safely at home. CWAJ members, foreign students and FSC alumni participated in the events, which included lively Q&A sessions and the chance to connect with each other virtually.

In October 2020, FSC was lucky to be able to visit the "Manga City Tokyo Nippon Manga, Anime, Games, Special Effects 2020" Exhibition at the The National Art Center, Tokyo in small groups of students and volunteers (photo top center).

English Outreach for Children (EOC)

EOC provides "Fun-in-English" literacy-based lessons for children at St. Joseph Children's Home located in western Tokyo. Monthly visits find EOC volunteers dressed up as characters from the English books on which lessons are based. Children and EOC members sing, play games and hold conversations in English, which is great fun for all.

Although in-person visits have been suspended since March 2020, EOC volunteers send seasonally themed packages filled with English books and gifts to the children in order to convey our dedication to them and to help them retain the English words and phrases that they have learned. The children sent beautiful handmade thank you cards with pictures of their smiling faces (photo top right), which fill us with hope.

CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Monthly General Meetings

The CWAJ Cultural Programs team curates a speaker series that is a cornerstone of CWAJ General Meetings. Monthly meetings allow us to share organization-wide information, learn from engaging speakers and socialize with each other. After dazzling January 2020 meeting attendees with a riveting musical performance by members of the **Miyamoto Unosuke Shoten** performance troupe and having **Stuart Varnam-Atkin** deliver an insightful lecture about Shakespeare at our February meeting, Cultural Programs was faced with the challenge of continuing this highly regarded series when in-person meetings ceased.

When general meetings moved to a virtual format, Cultural Programs welcomed the opportunity to gather members, not only those in Tokyo, but also Overseas Members and past scholars. Attendees in June enjoyed a Rakugo performance in English by **Katsura Sunshine** that offered levity and a sense of connection after so much time apart. Dynamic online gatherings have kept members engaged beyond the confines of their homes and with each other even though we are scattered across Tokyo and the globe.



Our 2020 speaker series also included a virtual art tour by member **Ursula Bartlett** in conjunction with the CWAJ Open Print Art Gallery, a discussion of contemporary print techniques by **Katsutoshi Yuasa**, a look inside Japanese corporate boards from an American woman's perspective by **Jenifer Rogers**, and a glimpse through the lens of a photographer's camera by **Natsuki Yasuda**. Cultural Programs offer members and their guests an opportunity to bond through enriching presentations.

ABOUT CWAJ

The College Women's Association of Japan, a 100% volunteer organization is a singular group of women supporting women through education, arts, community and friendship. Founded in 1949, our primary mission is the provision of scholarships that are funded by donations and proceeds from the CWAJ Print Show, an internationally acclaimed annual exhibition and sale that promotes contemporary Japanese print art. CWAJ serves the community by providing educational services for children and adults, including innovative programs for visually impaired individuals. CWAJ offers opportunities to engage in meaningful volunteer projects, participate in cross-cultural events and to make friendships with women from around the world. **Please join us! Contact: membership@cwaj.org**

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cwaj.org

