



COLLEGE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN  
**2023 Annual Report**  
 March 2024



**CWAJ International Women's Day  
 Japanese Women Leading the Way**

On March 8, CWAJ commemorated International Women's Day (IWD) 2023 with an event at the International House of Japan to celebrate the remarkable achievements of women and promote gender equality in our community. The event was a resounding success and a testament to the unwavering commitment of CWAJ to empower women and foster an inclusive society.

The evening's gathering brought together three inspiring and accomplished Japanese women from diverse backgrounds who shared their stories under the theme of Japanese Women Leading the Way. The audience gained insight from these exceptional leaders in business, science, and social responsibility who opened up about their personal and professional journeys. The excellent presentations by Mitsuru Claire Chino (Managing Executive Officer, ITOCHU Corporation), June Miyachi (President & CEO, Cartier Japan), and Dr. Marie Oshima (Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Tokyo) were informative, interactive, and raised awareness about the importance of gender equity.

This event served as a catalyst for change, reflecting CWAJ's dedication to advancing women's rights and opportunities. We are immensely grateful to the speakers who gave their time generously and all those who contributed to making the CWAJ IWD event a remarkable and transformative experience. Together, we march forward, inspired and energized in our mission to create a world where every woman's potential can be fully realized. We look forward to welcoming you at our IWD event in 2024!

**CWAJ International Women's Day 2024 will be held on March 8 at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.**

**1949 - 2024**  
**Celebrating 75 years of CWAJ**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
 for the 67th  
**CWAJ PRINT SHOW**

**October 16 - 20, 2024**  
 Hillside Forum, Daikanyama

**Online Gallery**  
<https://cwaj-gallery.jp>

**CWAJ Special Exhibition**  
 October 9 - November 5  
 Frederick Harris Gallery, Tokyo American Club

**FUND THE FUTURE**

The generosity of all of our donors and sponsors makes it possible for CWAJ to continue to provide opportunities for students to pursue their dreams. 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](mailto:donations@cwaj.org)**



**A Journey of Growth and Discovery  
 My First Four Months as the CWAJ Cartier Scholar at Oxford**

ISHIKAWA, Rin

As the inaugural CWAJ Cartier Scholar, I have had the unique privilege of immersing myself in a vibrant and diverse educational environment. Over half of my cohort of 338 students from 63 countries are women.

My Oxford experience extends beyond the classroom. I have been actively participating in the Interdisciplinary Food Systems Teaching and Learning Program, engaging with students from different disciplines and universities. These interactions have been instrumental in broadening my perspective on global food systems. An eagerly awaited element of the upcoming term is my participation in the Impact Lab. This prestigious program at Oxford is an opportunity for hands-on learning and leadership development.

Reflecting on the past four months, the most significant takeaway has been the unlearning and relearning process. Stepping out of my startup-focused mindset, I have opened my eyes to a multitude of solutions to global challenges.

Being the CWAJ Cartier Scholar has been a transformative experience. It's more than just an academic pursuit; it's a journey of personal growth, cultural exchange, and professional development. I am grateful for this opportunity and excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.

**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, to participate in cross-cultural events, and to make friendships with women from around the world. **Please join us! Contact: [membership@cwaj.org](mailto:membership@cwaj.org)**



# The 66th Print Show



## A Look Back at the 66th Print Show

The 66th CWAJ Print Show was held at the Daikanyama Hillside Forum and online through the CWAJ Print Show Online Gallery, attracting a diverse audience. Ten overseas members visited Japan to enjoy the Print Show, renewing old friendships and demonstrating CWAJ's commitment to camaraderie through volunteerism. There were several engaging events. Dr. Kit Brooks, a 2009 CWAJ Scholarship recipient and curator of Japanese art at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art gave a gallery talk on AY-O and Hidehiko Goto demonstrated traditional baren-making.



Scan to view the **2023 guided tour**, "Look Closer," featuring 20 works that reveal a new world

Scan to view our beautiful prints throughout the year at our **online gallery**



## Special Exhibition

In September, CWAJ held its first special exhibition in five years at the Frederick Harris Gallery of the Tokyo American Club. Titled Color Blast, the special exhibition featured the intense colors and exceptional pop artworks of four internationally renowned artists: AY-O, YAYANAGI Go, IKEDA Masuo, and TANAKA Hiroshi. The four artists have participated in the CWAJ Print Show since the 1960s, gaining popularity over the years.

The theme of the exhibit was inspired by the 2023 exhibition, Ay-O's *Happy Rainbow Hell*, at the Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Museum curated by Dr. Kit Brooks.



## Hands-on Art

Sighted and visually impaired visitors participated in a printmaking workshop conducted by Akane Torii, who is an educator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo. Participants used tactile tools to learn how prints are made and to understand the basic differences between four main types of printmaking.



## 2023 CWAJ Print Show Committee Award

Winner: OKADA, Ikumi  
"AM 5:00," Woodcut



Akari Uehara with Elena Fangazio

## Loro Piana Woman Artist Award

¥500 000  
**UEHARA, Akari**

Tohoku University of Art & Design, Department of Art & Design

Loro Piana Japan, a leading Italian fashion brand, collaborated with CWAJ to fund the CWAJ Print Show Loro Piana Woman Artist Award to promote the career of a female artist and the development of contemporary Japanese printmaking.

*Uehara Akari, uses her original "resin print" technique. "I hope to become an artist who can spark a small light in the hearts of the viewers."*



## 2023 CWAJ Young Printmaker Award

¥500 000  
**SATO, Tsubasa**

Graduate School of Tama Art University | Woodblock

Tsubasa plans to use the award to study primitivism, to produce a book of his prints, and to hold an exhibition of the results of his research.

*"My woodblock prints are based on primitivism, which visualizes the complexity of communicating in modern society and emotions that cannot be expressed in words."*



## Scholarship Tradition - May General Meeting

Continuing the annual tradition that has become a highlight of every year, the Scholarship Committee introduced CWAJ's new Scholars to donors, members, and the press at the general meeting and luncheon at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan on May 17.

We are proud of the many CWAJ Scholars who are having positive impacts across the globe and pray for their safety. CWAJ passionately believes in the education of women and we hope that all of our scholars will achieve their highest goals.

# The 2023 CWAJ Scholars

CWAJ awarded scholarships in the following categories for the 2023-2024 academic year:

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

¥3.0 million

#### MITSUKADO, Maika

Master of Science in European Forestry, University of Eastern Finland, Finland

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

Supported by the Japan Foundation, ¥3.0 million

#### NIOUSHA, Rose

Doctoral Course, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of California, Berkeley, USA

### CWAJ Cartier Scholarship (SA)

Funded by Cartier Japan, ¥3.0 million

#### ISHIKAWA, Rin

Master of Business Administration, University of Oxford Saïd Business School, UK

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

¥2.0 million

#### MOHAMED, Ola Mamoun Ahmed (The Republic of the Sudan)

Doctoral Course, Civil and Environmental Engineering Program, Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Nagoya University, Japan

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

Supported by the Japan Foundation, ¥2.0 million

#### GAMARRA, Elizabeth (United States of America)

PhD, International Relations, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, ICU, Japan

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

¥1.5 million; two recipients

#### KANAZAWA, Haruto

Fourth year, Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University, Japan

#### KIKUCHI, Momoi

Fourth year, Faculty of Law, Tohoku University, Japan

### Pandemic Response Scholarship for Nursing Students (NS)

¥500,000; five recipients

#### ESHIMA, Tsubasa

Fourth year, St. Luke's International University, College of Nursing

#### KIKUCHI, Akari

Fourth year, Fukushima Medical University, School of Nursing

#### SAWADA, Kotomi

Fourth year, Tokyo Women's Medical University, School of Nursing

#### SOENO, Ayaka

Fourth year, St. Luke's International University, College of Nursing

#### TANAKA, Hana

Fourth year, St. Luke's International University, College of Nursing



## OISHI, Kanoko – Keynote Speaker at the May General Meeting

**"If it was not for the CWAJ Scholarship, I would not have had the courage to step out of the traditional Japanese society. Though I desperately wanted to study abroad to change my career, very few people around me thought it was a good idea. The CWAJ Scholarship not only provided me with financial assistance but also gave me the big YES, you should do it!"**

Ms. Oishi started her career at a large Japanese financial institution before the passage of the 1985 Equal Employment Law, an era when working women were not treated as equals with their male colleagues. Feeling frustrated, she decided to attend Harvard Business School and was awarded a CWAJ Scholarship. After graduating, she joined McKinsey & Company, a consulting firm, and was made a partner in five years. After ten years at McKinsey, she gave birth to her son and started thinking about how to improve healthcare for the next generation.

She learned that many Japanese hospitals lack good management, and often neither the patients nor the staff are happy. In 2000, Ms. Oishi left McKinsey and founded her own company, Mediva and Platanus Medical Corporation, where innovative and patient-friendly solutions prove that innovation is possible, even in the traditional field of healthcare.

Ms. Oishi plans to expand her business globally. Her journey started by becoming a CWAJ Scholar and she plans to continue solving important issues in the healthcare field.





## COMMUNITY SERVICE

### Volunteers for the Visually Impaired (VVI)

The Volunteers for the Visually Impaired (VVI) serve visually impaired children and adults by providing English-language programs and holding special events. Information about VVI and CWAJ events is regularly sent to 181 visually impaired friends through electronic and braille editions of our newsletter.

Twice a year, in June and October, students at the Special Needs Education School for the Visually Impaired, University of Tsukuba, prepare for the Eiken Test in Practical English Proficiency. In 2023, VVI members used Zoom to conduct mock test interviews for 21 students. A one-to-one English conversation program, led by native English-speaking CWAJ volunteers (English Conversation Partners), was also offered to students upon request.

Throughout 2023, VVI volunteers taught English twice a week at the Japan Vocational Development Center for the Blind and Low Vision. At this center, adults are re-training for jobs, and English ability is a valuable qualification. The classes are fun, practical, and help students build confidence in speaking English.

VVI also holds social events. In August, volunteers and visually impaired friends gathered at the specially-equipped Cinema Chupki Theater to watch and discuss the documentary, *Young Plato*.

### English Outreach for Children (EOC)

In 2023, EOC was able to restart the Fun-With-English Lessons with the children at St. Joseph's Home in Nishi-Tokyo.

Visiting with the children and helping them learn English words and phrases has been a delight. Each of our lessons is based on a different English language picture book that has been translated into Japanese by our members. We provide a QR link to a bilingual recording of our members reading the book in English and Japanese, which allows the children to enjoy the books at any time.

During each lesson, we divide the children into small groups so that our members can give individual attention to each child. Those groups rotate through various activities, exposing them to English in a variety of settings.

### Foreign Students' Circle (FSC)

FSC provides a variety of Japanese cultural programs for foreign students, former FSC students and mentors. In 2023, FSC organized the following events:

- **Walking tour.** In April, we took a guided tour of Enoshima in Kanagawa Prefecture where we enjoyed the landscape while learning about the history of the area.
- **Kimono program.** In June, we spent the day with a kimono expert who brought many casual cotton yukatas, obi belts, and beautiful silk furisode long-sleeve kimono. Students had the opportunity to wear the kimono and view antique items for kimono, such as Kanzashi hair accessories.
- **Kabuki theater.** In July, we learned about kabuki and saw the play, *Hikimado* (Sliding Window).
- **CWAJ Print Show and Ohta Memorial Museum program.** In October, ten FSC members enjoyed the beautiful prints as well as the Hands-on Art exhibition at the CWAJ Print Show.
- **Kiyosumi Gardens tour.** In November, we had a guided tour of Kiyosumi Gardens, complete with a picnic lunch. Afterward, we visited the Fukagawa Edo Museum.

## MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS

In 2023, CWAJ hosted both Zoom and hybrid in-person General Meetings. Our dynamic speakers addressed a variety of topics of interest to the membership.



**January:** George Olcott, Guest Professor at Shizenkan University in Tokyo and foreign board member of several leading Japanese companies, discussed how Japanese companies differ from others and how they should change to establish global competitiveness.



**February:** Lance Gatling, a long-time Japan resident and geopolitical and military analyst, addressed the near-term threats that Japan faces to its national security and how it is preparing to meet those threats.



**March:** Naoko Abe, a UK-based non-fiction writer and former journalist for the *Mainichi Newspaper*, gave insight into the inspiration for her book, *'Cherry' Ingram: The Englishman Who Saved Japan's Blossoms*.



**April:** Chris Blackerby, Group Chief Operating Officer for Astroscale Holdings, described how his company is developing a business to support the increasing number of satellites in outer space.



**May:** Kanoko Oishi is the Managing Director of Mediva and Platanus Medical Corp, a company that operates 12 primary care homes and healthcare clinics in Japan and Vietnam.



**June:** Rochelle Kopp, Managing Principal of Japan Intercultural Consulting, presented her perspective on how women can make a difference when they communicate effectively in business and community affairs.



**September:** For the 2023 Print Show Kickoff, Ryuta Endo, Printmaker and Professor at Musashino Art University, presented, "Creating Hanga Prints, the Rich Diversity," a historical review of Japanese printmaking and an explanation of innovative techniques that are shaping its future.



**October:** Josh Grisdale, manager of the Marketing Department for Azalee Group and creator of the website *Accessible Japan*, explained the many ways in which Japan is accessible to people with disabilities and why it is important to continue to advocate for further improvements.



**November:** Manuel Tardits, Professor of Architecture at Meiji University and co-founder of the architect office, *Mikan*, explained how his interest in Japanese architecture changed his life.



**December:** Hiroki Sato, an award-winning flamenco dancer, and his company, *Arte y Solera*, provided an exciting flamenco performance to celebrate the holiday season.

