



COLLEGE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN

2024 Annual Report

MARCH 2025



75th Anniversary News

In the aftermath of World War II, when Japanese women lacked suffrage and societal roles, a group of female volunteers emerged in Tokyo—now CWAJ. With permission from General Headquarters, the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers during post war occupation, we established a travel fund to support Japanese students struggling to afford dollar-based travel expenses to the United States of America. Guided by the motto “boldly taking on challenges that society needs but for which there are no precedents,” CWAJ has grown over 75 years, expanding its scholarships program to nearly 900 students from 40 countries. These scholarships have been made possible through generous donations from members and donors, as well as proceeds from the CWAJ Print Show, an annual event since 1956. The Print Show has also played a significant role in promoting and popularizing contemporary Japanese printmaking, both domestically and internationally.

In 2024, CWAJ proudly celebrated its 75th anniversary. We remain committed to fostering international and cultural exchange through education, art, community, and friendship. We have gradually shifted to a digital world with technological innovation to catch up with current trends. As our memories of the past fade, we remain committed to nurturing the seeds our predecessors planted 75 years ago, and passing them on to the next generation. We sincerely appreciate your continued support.

Promoting Women's Empowerment at CWAJ's "International Women's Day" Event

CWAJ held an event on March 8, 2024, at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan to commemorate International Women's Day and raise awareness of the organization. The event, featured four successful women who shared their experiences navigating male-dominated fields and discussed ways to empower women and promote gender equality in Japan.



Mieko Nakabayashi, Waseda University professor and well-known political commentator, gave the keynote speech. She was later joined in a panel discussion with Yoko Narahashi, producer, award-winning director, and casting director; Kanoko Oishi, CEO and founder of Mediva, a healthcare consulting and service operation company; and Arfiya Eri, a member of Japan's House of Representatives. Emiko Magoshi, honorary professor at J.F. Oberlin University and a radio personality, served as moderator.

A strong message emerged from their speeches and the panel discussion: if you believe in what you are passionate about, you will succeed. This message appeared to inspire and encourage many members of the audience. Some of them expressed heartfelt gratitude towards the speakers for sharing their personal experiences and offering insights and advice on how to persevere and succeed in a society that retains many anachronistic customs and biases against women.

With three media representatives in attendance and an audience of more than 70 women and men, we succeeded in spreading the word about CWAJ and its work in promoting the empowerment of women in Japan.

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2025

68TH ANNUAL PRINT SHOW

68th CWAJ Print Show

October 15 (Wed) - 19 (Sun), 2025
Hillside Forum (Daikanyama Hillside Terrace F)

CWAJ Special Exhibition

September 24 (Wed) - October 12 (Sun), 2025
Frederick Harris Gallery
Tokyo American Club, Azabudai

CWAJ Online Gallery

<https://cwaj-gallery.jp>

Highfield Hall CWAJ Print Show

June 21 (Wed) - October 26 (Sun), 2025
Highfield Hall and Gardens
Falmouth MA, USA

VVI 50TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EVENTS

Film Viewing and Talk Event

“Life is Climbing”
April 19 (Sat), 2:00-4:00 pm
Arcadia Ichigaya

VVI 50th Anniversary Concert

November 6 (Thur), 7:00-9:00 pm
Sumida Triphony Hall, Small Hall

EXPO 2025 OSAKA, KANSAI

CWAJ Panel Discussion
Women's Pavilion in collaboration
with Cartier, “WA” Space
July 25 (Fri), 11:45 am-12:45 pm & 1:45-2:45 pm

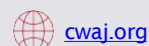
FUND THE FUTURE

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. As in 2023, Cartier Japan made a significant donation to CWAJ in 2024 to support our scholarship. Loro Piana Japan, a leading Italian fashion brand, also supported female artists. 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

ABOUT CWAJ

The College Women's Association of Japan, a 100% volunteer organization, supports 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. The Print Show is 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**





Celebrating Art, Legacy, and Community at the 67th CWAJ Print Show

Art enthusiasts from Japan and beyond gathered for the 67th CWAJ Print Show, held from October 16 - 20 at the Hillside Forum in Daikanyama, Tokyo. Featuring 207 remarkable prints by established and emerging artists, the juried exhibition offered a delightful mix of styles, from traditional to pop, and techniques, from woodblock to digital. It is a testament to CWAJ's commitment to artistic excellence and its role in the development of young artists.

The Print Show continues to support young talent through the annual Young Printmaker Award (YPA), now in its 20th year. This year's YPA winner, AOYAGI Yuka, presented a collection that captivated the audience. In addition, the CWAJ Print Show Loro Piana Woman Artist Award was presented for the third consecutive year, with emerging artist Park Aeri receiving the 500,000 yen prize. Park's exceptional work, which draws on her Japanese and Korean heritage, reflects great promise for the future of printmaking.

As always, the Print Show was about more than just art; it was a celebration of community.

October 17, members and overseas visitors gathered at Bistro Favori for a warm evening of conversation and connection. During the show,

visually impaired guests enjoyed our Hands-on Art program while past scholarship recipients came to show their support and enjoy the ever-popular guided tour as well as the embossing workshop led by artist Katsutoshi Yuasa.

This year's Print Show concluded with an online gallery sale from October 22 to 27, allowing collectors around the world to share in the excitement and to support CWAJ's mission. The online gallery remains accessible for viewing year-round at <https://cwaj-gallery.jp/>.

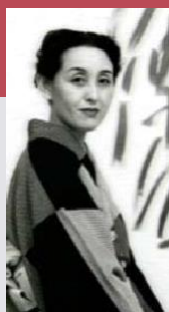
Net proceeds from the Print Show go to CWAJ's scholarship and education programs, bringing art, learning, and opportunity to future generations. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended, participated, and supported this year's show, making it a memorable celebration of art, legacy, and community.

From 21 June to 26 October 2025, 136 prints, mainly from the 67th exhibition, will be exhibited and sold at Highfield Hall and Gardens, a members-only club in Falmouth, Massachusetts, USA. This is the third time that the CWAJ has been invited by Highfield Hall to hold a print exhibition. Scan here for more details.



CWAJ 75th Anniversary Special Exhibition 'Trailblazers' at Tokyo American Club and Hillside Forum

A special highlight of this year's event was the special exhibition "Trailblazers" in celebration of CWAJ's 75th anniversary. Held at both the Hillside Forum and the Frederick Harris Gallery at the Tokyo American Club (TAC) "Trailblazers" paid tribute to five pioneering women artists who profoundly shaped Japanese art in the 20th century: SHINODA Toko, YOSHIDA Chizuko, IWAMI Reika, YANAGISAWA Noriko, and TATSUNO Toeko. Featuring over 50 works, this exhibition honored the enduring legacy of these artists and showed the paths they have paved for future generations.



Loro Piana Woman Artist Award

¥500 000
PARK Aeri

Enrolled in the Musashino Art University Graduate School

"Mother and Daughter"
Etching/Aquaint/Drypoint

Inspired by CWAJ's mission of fostering female leadership for 50 years and supporting art through its annual exhibition of contemporary Japanese prints, leading Italian fashion brand Loro Piana Japan is collaborating with CWAJ with the donation of a special award, the CWAJ Print Show Loro Piana Woman Artist Award. In its third year of this collaboration, the winner of the award (500,000 yen) is Park Aeri. She is an up-and-coming young printmaker with roots in Japan and Korea who shows great promise for the future. We hope that this award will help Ms. Park to make further progress and contribute to the development of the Japanese printmaking world.

2024 CWAJ Young Printmaker Award

¥500 000
AOYAGI Yuka

Enrolled in the Master's Program in Plastic Arts, Graduate School of Art, Nihon University

"YATSUHASHI"
Etching/Aquaint



"I am interested in works based on literature and work on the theme of 'interpretation' to read and understand the things described. I create abstract paintings that incorporate elements of literary works.

I'd like to use the prize money received from the YPA Award to purchase a copperplate press."

**The CWAJ Young Printmaker Award celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2024. CWAJ is proud that past winners have gone on to make remarkable achievements in the world of printmaking and art.*

The 2024 CWAJ Scholars

CWAJ awarded scholarships in the following categories for the 2024-2025 academic year:

CWAJ Cultural Exchange Graduate Scholarship for Japanese Women to Study Abroad

3.0 million yen (Supported by the Japan Foundation)

TSUTSUI Aya

Master of TESOL, Curtin University, Australia



CWAJ Cartier Scholarship

3.0 million yen (Funded by Cartier Japan)

NAKANO Tomoko

MBA, University of Chicago Booth School of Business, USA



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

2.0 million yen

RYU Areum (Republic of Korea)

Ph.D., International Relations, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University, Japan



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

2.0 million yen (Supported by the Japan Foundation)

SHERWEEDY Sarah (Arab Republic of Egypt)

Ph.D., International Japanese Studies, Graduate School of International Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan



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

Two scholarships of 1.0 million yen each (Funded by Grandma-Short-Legs)

KISHIRA Hayato

Doctoral Program in Disability Sciences, Graduate School of Comprehensive Human Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Japan



TAMAOKI Haruna

3rd year, Environmental Studies, International Christian University, Japan

Congratulations 2024 CWAJ Scholars!

The May Scholarship General Meeting was held at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan on May 15. Keynote speaker Professor Yukiko Fukagawa from Waseda University (Study Abroad Scholar, 1994) spoke about "Changing Japan-U.S. Economic Partnership in East Asia." The hybrid format meant that SA scholar Ms. Aya Tsutsui, who was already studying abroad, could join us on Zoom.

Also in attendance were 2021 Nursing Scholars Ms. Meika Hayakawa and Ms. Takara Oyama. The 2021 presentation was online due to COVID-19, so CWAJ members were delighted to be able to meet them in person.



Professor Yukiko Fukagawa



Ms. June Miyachi, Cartier Japan President & CEO, with CWAJ Cartier Scholar Tomoko Nakano

CWAJ continued its collaboration with Cartier Japan in 2024, awarding a second CWAJ Cartier Scholarship. Ms. June Miyachi, Cartier Japan President & CEO, announced that Cartier Japan would continue to fully fund a CWAJ Cartier Scholarship in 2025. In addition, Cartier Japan will open the 'Women's Pavilion in collaboration with Cartier' at the Osaka/Kansai Expo 2025, and will call on visitors to aspire to a fair and sustainable future through the experiences and perspectives of women. Former CWAJ scholars will participate in a panel discussion in the 'WA' space in the pavilion.



CWAJ Scholars and Scholar Alumni at the Print Show

Six former scholars visited the Print Show on October 19 for a reunion gathering.

They enjoyed light refreshments and a tour of the gallery. CWAJ members were pleased to work alongside current scholar SHERWEEDY Sarah as she volunteered on the last day of the Print Show.

SANO Hiroko - SA 1978, Prof. Emerita at Aoyama Gakuin University

YASUDA Arei Shirai - SA 2011, Director, Women's Career Support Division, Benesse

Dr. ZABLACKAITE Geidre - NJG 2019, Nuclear Engineer, Hitachi-GE Nuclear Energy

ONO Michiyo - SA 1996, Serves as a board member for many companies

GAMARRA Elizabeth - NJG 2023, Studying International Relations at International Christian University

YASUNO Sakura - NJU 1999, Software Engineer



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteers for the Visually Impaired (VVI)

The Volunteers for the Visually Impaired (VVI) serve visually impaired students and adults by providing English language programs and holding special events. Over the years VVI's programs have evolved, but our mission has stayed the same: supporting a variety of activities in English aimed at encouraging education, cross-cultural exchange, and friendship with the visually impaired community.

Information about VVI and CWAJ events is regularly sent to visually impaired friends through electronic and braille editions of our triannual newsletter. In 2024, VVI members conducted online mock test interviews for 19 high school students at the Special Needs Education School for the Visually Impaired, University of Tsukuba, who were preparing for the biannual Eiken Test in Practical English Proficiency. A one-to-one English conversation program, led by native English-speaking CWAJ overseas volunteers (English Conversation Partners), was also offered to students upon request. Throughout 2024, CWAJ volunteers taught English twice a week at the Japan Vocational Development Center for the Blind and Low Vision where adults are re-training for jobs for which English ability is a valuable qualification. The classes are fun, practical, and help students build confidence in speaking English.

In May, volunteers and visually impaired friends held the first in-person English Conversation Gathering after a gap of several years at Temple University. A volunteer introduced the culture of Sweden. Miku Kawakami played the nyckelharpa, a traditional Swedish instrument. Everyone enjoyed the music and Swedish food! In September, we had an online gathering to hear Josh Grisdale speak about his own disability and experiences. He is a strong advocate for improving accessibility for the disabled. Josh explained how he started Accessible Japan and Tabi Folk, websites aimed at providing information about traveling in Japan to people with disabilities.

To commemorate VVI's 50th anniversary in 2025, we are planning to host special events and to publish a booklet about our 50-year history.

English Outreach for Children (EOC)

In 2024 EOC visited St. Joseph's Home for Children five times.

For each visit we base the lesson around a picture book, which one of our members has translated into Japanese. On the back of each book, we have provided a QR link to a bilingual recording of our members reading the book in English and Japanese, so that it can be enjoyed any time.

We have helped them to learn some English words and phrases. During each lesson we divide them into small groups so that our members can provide individual attention to each child and allow them to practice. Rotating through four stations (book reading, games, crafts, and worksheets) allows the children to have fun and be exposed to English in a variety of fun settings.

Foreign Students Circle (FSC)

Foreign Students Circle (FSC) events provide foreign students with valuable opportunities to deepen their understanding of Japanese culture and customs. Each foreign student is paired with a CWAJ mentor, which further enhances their education about Japan. This personalized approach is one of FSC's unique features.

- **March:** Origami Party
- **April:** Welcome Tea Party
- **May:** Rose Garden Visit in Yokohama
- **June:** English Rakugo Performances
- **October:** CWAJ Print Show & Kangetsusai (Moon Festival) at Kokugakuin University
- **December:** Year-end Potluck Party

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS

Throughout 2024, CWAJ held monthly general meetings on Zoom or in a hybrid format. Dynamic speakers addressed a variety of topics of interest to the membership.



January: Virginia Stibbs Anami, author of the book, *Following the Tracks of Ennin's 9th C. Journey to China*. Title: *Ennin's Green Road: A Short Excursion in 9th C. China & Japan*.



February: Hon. Dr. Kay Patterson the Order of Australia, Title: *Spotlight on Ageing in Australia*.



March: Yu Tazawa ("Taz"), Founder and CEO of BnA Co., Ltd. Title: *How BnA Is Using Hospitality to Empower Local Artistic Communities*. BnA ("Bed and Art")



April: Professor Carol Suzuki, the University of New Mexico School of Law. Title: *Guiding Your Future Health Care Through Advance Directives*.



May: Professor Yukiko Fukagawa, Waseda University. Title: *Changing Japan-U.S. Economic Partnership in East Asia*.



June: Professor Yoshiko Nakano, Department of International Design Management at Tokyo University of Science. Title: *Japan's Postwar Cabin Attendants and Alice Atwood, their American Instructor*.



September: Tetsuya Noda, Professor Emeritus, Tokyo University of the Arts. Dorit Noda, Japan Israel Friendship Association, Director. Title: *A Life in Print: A Conversation with Renowned Japanese Print Artist, Tetsuya Noda*.



November: Professor Tom Gally, University of Tokyo. Title: *What Does AI Mean for Education?*



December: RONE and Gigi, Theater Clown Duo. Title: *Laughter is Life*.

