



CWAJ Print Exhibition 70th Anniversary

CWAJ Artist-in-Residence Program 2027

Oehme Graphics @ Steamboat Springs, Colorado, USA

As the CWAJ Contemporary Print Exhibition marks its 70th anniversary in October 2027, we are pleased to offer an Artist-in-Residence Program as a token of our gratitude to the artists who have supported CWAJ over the past 70 years. This program offers a two-week residency at a printmaking studio in Colorado, surrounded by lush natural scenery, where participants will create works alongside Sue Oehme, a master printer highly regarded throughout the United States. We invite you to broaden the scope of your artistic expression and break new ground through your creative work and interactions with the local community.



Photo on the left: Downtown Steamboat Springs; photo in the middle: Sue Oehme with Print Manager Teddy Benson and summer intern Tianxin Xu; photo on the right: The apartment for AIR residents on the second floor of the studio

1.Overview:

The CWAJ Artist-in-Residence (AIR) Program 2027 is open to individuals who have previously exhibited in a CWAJ print exhibition and are currently residing in Japan as Japanese nationals or special permanent residents. The selected artist will spend two weeks in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, creating prints alongside Sue Oehme, master printer at Oehme Graphics. The dates will be between May and September 2027 and will be determined by mutual agreement between the artist and Ome Graphics. There are no age restrictions for applicants. A private room will be provided during the residency, and CWAJ will subsidize airfare up to 325,000 yen. The program will be conducted in English.

The selected artist will be given the following opportunities:

- Work alongside a nationally recognized master printer
 - Create new works in a professional studio environment
 - Learn innovative printmaking techniques and processes
 - Utilize specialized equipment and facilities
 - Receive individualized instruction and artistic feedback
 - Interact with experienced local artists
 - Experience artistic and cultural exchange in the United States
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2.Schedule:

- A two-week period between May 1 and September 30, 2027
 - Following the selection process, we will coordinate a schedule that is convenient for both the artist and Oehme Graphics.
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3.Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must meet the following conditions:

- Printmakers who have previously been selected for or exhibited in the CWAJ Contemporary Print Exhibition, its accompanying exhibitions, special exhibitions, the Young Printmaker Award, the Loro Piana Women Artists Award, etc.
 - Must be a Japanese national or a special permanent resident currently residing in Japan.
 - Must be able to communicate in English at a basic level and be willing to engage in active dialogue.
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4.How to Apply:

Download the application form: <https://cwaj.org/AIR>

Application Deadline: November 9, 2026

Application Requirements:

- Please fill out the application form, including answers to the two essay-style questions.
- Please submit a portfolio of images of five original prints, including one work previously exhibited in a past CWAJ Contemporary Print Exhibition.
- Finalists will be invited to an online interview on December 12. Finalists will be notified on December 5, so please keep the morning of December 12 free for the interview.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact AIR@cwaj.org.

Selection Schedule:

- Application Deadline: November 9, 2026
 - Notification to Finalists: December 5, 2026
 - Online Interviews for Finalists: Morning of December 12, 2026
 - Announcement of Winners: Mid- to late December 2026
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5.Program Details:

The following will be provided free of charge during the residency period:

- A two-week artist residency at Oehme Graphics (see Section 8 for printmaking techniques)
- Daily instruction and collaboration with Master Printer Oehme
- Full access to studio facilities, equipment, and printmaking supplies
- Accommodations in a shared apartment with private rooms located above the studio
- Breakfast and lunch on workdays (breakfast consists of ingredients only)
- A grant of up to 325,000 yen toward round-trip airfare
- Opportunities to explore Steamboat Springs and the Rocky Mountains

After the residency concludes, the following opportunities will be provided:

- An invitation to the opening reception of the 70th CWAJ Contemporary Print Exhibition, to be held in October 2027
- An opportunity to exhibit work at the 2028 (or, depending on circumstances, 2027) CWAJ Contemporary Print Exhibition and to give a talk about the AIR experience

Host: Sue Oehme (Master Printer / Director of Oehme Graphics):

With nearly 40 years of experience as a master printer, Sue Oehme pours her extensive knowledge and technical skills into printmaking projects at Oehme Graphics. The concept of “collaboration” underlies nearly every aspect of studio production. Decisions regarding techniques, colors, and imagery are made through shared discussions, with everyone present contributing their thoughts and ideas. This is because she believes that tackling a single challenge with multiple minds is what enables us to find the best solutions.

During their residencies at OG, artists will discover diverse new techniques, color combinations, and ink formulations to bring their visions to life. They will leave the studio with fresh ideas sprouting in their minds—ideas they can take back to their own creative practices. A project can be considered a success when an artist discovers something new that serves as a stepping stone for further exploration.

6.What kind of equipment does Oehme Graphics have?

Oehme Graphics is one of the leading professional printmaking studios in the United States.

The types of prints we can produce are as follows:

- Intaglio prints such as etchings; relief prints such as woodblock and linocut; various collographs and monotypes; and combinations thereof.
- We can also produce silkscreen prints, though these are assisted by a printer other than Ms.. Oehme.

Note: Lithography is not available.

The studio is equipped with the following:

- Two Takach etching presses
 - Professional-grade aquatint equipment
 - An etching room with full ventilation
 - Spacious work areas for artists
 - A wide selection of printmaking paper
 - A comprehensive supply of art materials
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7. Artists' Out-of-Pocket Expenses:

Selected artists are responsible for the following expenses:

- Dinner (Dinner is not provided during the program, but the kitchen is available for use)
 - Travel insuranceHealth insurance
 - Personal expenses
 - Any personal travel before or after the AIR program
 - If you plan to use special art supplies, paper, or tools, please bring them with you.
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8. Expectations for AIR Artists:

During the residency period, selected artists are required to engage in the following:

- Collaborate with Sue Oehme and the studio staff
- Share knowledge about Japanese printmaking techniques
- Explore new printmaking techniques
- Create a series of works, including prints in edition and monotypes, during the residency period
- Donate one print (monoprints are acceptable) to the Oehme Graphics archive
- Participate in photo shoots, interviews, or video recordings upon request
- Be able to communicate in basic English and be willing to actively participate in conversations

After the residency concludes, artists are required to do the following:

- Submit a report
 - Give a presentation about the residency experience at a CWAJ event
 - Exhibit a work at the following year's CWAJ Contemporary Print Exhibition
 - Donate one work created during the residency to CWAJ
 - Share photographs and videos documenting the residency and grant CWAJ permission to use them for promotional purposes
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9. Sue Oehme:

Information about Oehme Graphics and Sue Oehme is available through the following resources:

- Oehme Graphics Website: www.oehmegraphics.com
- Interview with Sue Oehme: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbJpP5MPiNg>
- “How We Do It at Oehme Graphics” video series:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjBOMPYAnMfLdX9OKznBE9V1vd0WNjDZc>
- Artist Process Videos:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjBOMPYAnMfKsTJlu4NTXSf2Sxm5nQKoy>

10.About CWAJ

For nearly 70 years, the College Women’s Association of Japan (CWAJ), a general incorporated association, has been engaged in various social contribution activities as a nonprofit volunteer organization through the CWAJ Contemporary Print Exhibition, educational programs, and cultural exchange. The net proceeds from the CWAJ Contemporary Print Exhibition serve as funding for scholarships and grants, and to date, the organization has supported more than 900 students in Japan and abroad, students with visual impairments, and printmakers.

The 70th CWAJ Contemporary Print Exhibition will be held in October 2027 at the Hillside Forum in Daikanyama, and an online gallery will be launched simultaneously. The “CWAJ Artist-in-Residence Program 2027” aligns with CWAJ’s efforts to promote contemporary printmaking in Japan and foster connections between Japan and the rest of the world.

Copyright:

Artists participating in the CWAJ Artist-in-Residence Program are deemed to have agreed in advance to allow CWAJ to use images of works exhibited in past CWAJ Contemporary Print Exhibitions, as well as works to be donated in the future, on a non-exclusive basis, free of charge, and for an indefinite period, for the purposes of producing exhibition catalogs and publicizing and promoting the exhibition (including publication on the CWAJ website, social media, videos, digital archives, and other CWAJ publications).

Handling of Personal Information:

CWAJ will handle personal information appropriately in compliance with the “Act on the Protection of Personal Information,” other relevant laws and regulations, the “Guidelines on the Act on the Protection of Personal Information (General Provisions),” and other guidelines established by the government.



