



THE ADACHI FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WOODCUT PRINTING

Adachi Foundation Annual Report "MOKUHAN 2025" - FY2025

1. Research and Grant Program

Support for Research and Study on Traditional Woodcut Printing Techniques

In FY2025, the Foundation placed particular emphasis on the art and design category of its grant program, which invites submissions of original works intended as designs for woodcut prints. The Adachi UKIYOE Award 2025 (17th) was held in conjunction with the Foundation's existing grant program. As in the previous year, applicants were evaluated on the basis of portfolios presenting works they had created to date. The open call was announced through Japanese- and English-language art competition websites, magazines, and the Foundation's Japanese and English websites.

A total of 395 applications were received from 64 countries. Following review by the judging committee, one Grand Prize recipient (JPY 300,000), one Excellence Award recipient (JPY 150,000), and two Honorable Mention recipients (JPY 50,000 each) were selected. The works by the Grand Prize and Excellence Award recipients are scheduled to be produced as woodcut prints in FY2026.

Adachi UKIYOE Award 2025 - Award Recipients

Grand Prize	Beniko Choji (丁子紅子) - JPY 300,000 + production as a woodcut print
Excellence Award	Anuj Shrestha - JPY 150,000 + production as a woodcut print
Honorable Mention	Hiroto Katsukura (勝倉大和) - JPY 50,000
Honorable Mention	Karen Arai (荒井かれん) - JPY 50,000

Image in the Japanese report: "Study I," from the portfolio of Excellence Award recipient Anuj Shrestha.

Image in the Japanese report: "Fragment." (working translation of 「破片。」), from the portfolio of Grand Prize recipient Beniko Choji.

Judges

- Tomio Koyama - Gallerist
- Seiichiro Miida - Professor, Department of Painting, Faculty of Fine Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts
- Yuji Yamashita - Professor, Department of Art Studies, Faculty of Letters, Meiji Gakuin University
- Koko Nakayama - Chairperson, The Adachi Foundation for the Preservation of Woodcut Printing

Works by the Adachi UKIYOE Award Recipients (2023 and 2024)

Following discussions with each award recipient, young carvers and printers who had completed the Foundation's training program produced the works as woodcut prints, bringing them to completion as contemporary ukiyo-e.

Completed woodcut print (2023 Award, Excellence Award): Hanae Nakajima (中島華映), 「水底に沈む青」 (working translation: "Blue Sinking to the Bottom").

Completed woodcut print (2024 Award, Excellence Award): Carmen Ng, "Neighborhood."

2. Training Future Artisans

Training Successors in Traditional Woodcut Print Production

The Foundation's Advanced Technical Training Program is intended to provide trainees with a high level of specialized skills. In FY2025, however, no suitable candidates were identified, and the training itself was therefore not conducted. At the same time, applications for the 29th Advanced Technical Trainee intake were accepted from May through December 2025. Three people applied, and following the selection process, one person was chosen as a first-term trainee in the 29th intake. From the next fiscal year onward, the Foundation plans to create an environment in which students and others with a strong interest in traditional woodcut printing can apply more easily, including by increasing the number of workshops offered.

29th Advanced Technical Trainee (first term of 2026 / carver): Mitoha Nakajima (中嶋みと葉)

Training Center: 3-13-17 Shimoochiai, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

3. Printmaking Demonstrations and Training Program

(1) Printmaking Demonstrations

In response to the many requests from people wishing to observe the woodcut print production process, the Foundation has presented regular demonstrations at its permanent exhibition space. In addition, at the request of educational institutions, art museums, museums, and other organizations, Foundation staff members - lecturers, carvers, and printers - have been dispatched as instructors to present printmaking demonstrations.

In FY2025, the Foundation received approximately ten requests for printmaking demonstrations in conjunction with ukiyo-e exhibitions held at art museums and museums throughout Japan. The Foundation also continued its regular Ukiyo-e Woodcut Printing Demonstrations at the permanent exhibition space, a program held several times a year on Saturdays since October 1997. Three printing demonstrations were held, along with one demonstration with a hands-on printing experience for parents and children and one for the general public, for a total of five sessions.

Chiba City Museum of Art

A printer demonstrated the printing of Utagawa Hiroshige's "Tsuki ni Kari" ("Geese and the Moon"). The program also included explanations of traditional woodcut printing tools and production processes, a question-and-answer session, and a hands-on experience.

Date	February 14, 2026
Venue	Chiba City Museum of Art
Participants	Approximately 200

Image in the Japanese report: scene from the printing demonstration at the Chiba City Museum of Art.

Printmaking Demonstrations Conducted

Venues and organizations included the Sumida Hokusai Museum, Ota Memorial Museum of Art, Tama Art University, the Printmaking Department of Tokyo University of the Arts, the Chiba City Museum of Art, the Japan-British Society, and others.

(2) Training Activities

Woodcut Printing Class Taught by Artisans

As in the previous year, the Foundation offered a beginner-level Woodcut Printing Class Taught by Artisans for members of the general public with a strong interest in woodcut printing. One class was held

in two sessions, with a capacity of 20 participants. Under the guidance of the instructors, participants created woodcut prints based on their own drawings.

Dates	September 27 and October 11, 2025 - two sessions in total
Venue	Foundation Permanent Exhibition Space
Participants	20
Instructors	Carver: Hiromi Hasegawa (長谷川博美), Adachi Institute of Woodcut Prints; Printer: Yoshio Kyoso (京増与志夫), Foundation Councilor

Image in the Japanese report: carving instruction during the woodcut printing class.

Internship-Style Training Workshop

To select candidates for the Foundation's successor-training program, an internship-style training workshop was held with six participants.

Dates	August 25-28, 2025 - four days
Venue	Foundation Permanent Exhibition Space
Participants	6
Instructors	Carver: Hiromi Hasegawa (長谷川博美), Adachi Institute of Woodcut Prints; Printer: Yoshio Kyoso (京増与志夫), Foundation Councilor

Image in the Japanese report: scene from the internship-style training workshop.

4. Exhibition and Resource Program

Public Access to Materials Related to Production Techniques as a Comprehensive Center for Traditional Woodcut Printing

The Foundation continues to organize and preserve approximately 1,200 reproduction woodblocks for ukiyo-e, together with documentary materials and resources related to the tools, materials, and production processes of traditional woodcut printing. These are indispensable resources for understanding the printmaking techniques that have been handed down since the Edo period, and in recent years an increasing number of individuals and organizations with an interest in traditional woodcut printing have visited the Foundation's permanent exhibition space.

In FY2025 in particular, public interest in ukiyo-e rose in connection with the NHK historical drama "Unbound," leading to a substantial increase both in visitors and in requests to borrow exhibition materials. At the permanent exhibition space, the Foundation organized special exhibitions introducing reproduction ukiyo-e by Utamaro and Sharaku and contemporary woodcut prints, as well as an exhibition of works created by participants in the Woodcut Printing Class Taught by Artisans.

In April, the Foundation also co-organized the exhibition "Ukiyo-e In Play: Artists Re-working the Tradition of Woodcut Prints" at the Hyokeikan of the Tokyo National Museum. Contemporary woodcut prints created through collaborations between internationally active artists and artisans working with the Foundation were brought together in one exhibition, presenting the ways in which traditional woodcut techniques are expanding into contemporary forms of expression. In addition, in conjunction with ukiyo-e exhibitions held at museums around Japan, the Foundation lent exhibition materials and assisted with the production of woodblocks for hands-on activities.

Loans of Exhibits and Reference Materials

Materials: Ukiyo-e printing-sequence materials and complete sets of carving and printing tools

Total: 56 loans

Special Exhibition: "Experience the Sparkle through Ukiyoe Reproductions! The Appeal of Utamaro and Sharaku"

This special exhibition focused on the hanmoto, or publisher, who coordinated the work of the eshi, carver, and printer and was responsible for publishing and selling ukiyo-e. Particular attention was given to the ingenuity of Tsutaya Juzaburo, a leading ukiyo-e publisher and the central figure in the NHK historical drama "Unbound." The exhibition introduced kira-biki, a technique using mica in the background. Eight gallery talks were held during the exhibition period, and all reached capacity, demonstrating the high level of public interest.

Dates	October 21-November 22, 2025
Venue	Foundation Permanent Exhibition Space
Visitors	1,020 (905 visitors from Japan; 115 overseas residents)
Gallery Talks	October 24; November 1, 5, 15, and 19, 2025 - eight sessions over five days
Participants	Capacity of 15 for each session

Exhibition of Works from the Woodcut Printing Class Taught by Artisans

Dates	December 16, 2025-January 17, 2026
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Images in the Japanese report: exhibition view and gallery talk.

Ukiyo-e In Play: Artists Re-working the Tradition of Woodcut Prints

Beginning April 22, 2025, the Foundation co-organized the exhibition "Ukiyo-e In Play: Artists Re-working the Tradition of Woodcut Prints" at the Hyokeikan of the Tokyo National Museum. The exhibition presented 162 contemporary woodcut prints created using ukiyo-e printmaking techniques handed down from the Edo period, organized into five chapters, and welcomed more than 83,000 visitors during its run.

Chapter 4, in particular, brought together collaborative works by internationally active artists invited to the Foundation's Contemporary Ukiyo-e International Creative Project and the carvers and printers who work with the Foundation, presenting the diverse forms of expression that emerge where traditional techniques and contemporary art intersect. The exhibition also included works by Adachi UKIYOE Award recipients and materials related to the Foundation's successor-training program and its activities in the preservation and promotion of woodcut printing techniques. It provided an opportunity to present the Foundation's long-standing activities in a comprehensive way. During the exhibition, a special ukiyo-e printing demonstration was also held, allowing visitors to observe artisans' skills at close range.

Dates	April 22-June 15, 2025
Venue	Hyokeikan, Tokyo National Museum in Ueno
Visitors	83,203
Exhibits	163 woodcut works, related materials, video materials, and other items

Image in the Japanese report: exterior view of the Hyokeikan.

5. Information Services

In FY2025, the Foundation received many inquiries related to traditional woodcut printing, including requests to screen the bilingual Japanese-English DVD "Takumi-tachi no Waza" at ukiyo-e exhibitions in Japan and overseas. The Foundation also published the FY2024 edition of its annual report, "MOKUHAN 2024," reporting on the results of its programs and current activities, and distributed it free of charge.

Image Licensing / Loans

Requests were received from Osaka Senden Kenkyujo Co., Ltd. (株式会社大阪宣伝研究所), Nihon Nyushi Center Co., Ltd. (株式会社日本入試センター), Impress Corporation (株式会社インプレス), Nowhere Co., Ltd. (株式会社ノーウェア), and approximately 30 other organizations.

6. Woodcut Print Production Supervision Program

This program is designed to maintain and pass on traditional woodcut printing techniques at a high level. Rather than limiting its activities to reproductions of ukiyo-e, the Foundation invites artists working in a wide range of genres to take on the role of eshi, working in collaboration with carvers and printers to create new woodcut prints and expand the possibilities of the medium.

In FY2025, works by internationally active artists Nick Walker, Alex Dodge, Ayako Rokkaku, Robert Lazzarini, Yu Miyazaki, feebee, and Kumi Machida were produced as woodcut prints by highly skilled artisans. In addition, as works to be presented to Supporting Members, the Foundation received designs from Adachi UKIYOE Award recipients Kae Nakajima (中島華映; 15th Award, Excellence Award) and Carmen Ng (16th Award, Excellence Award), and produced them as woodcut prints.

Selected Works Shown in the Japanese Report

Nick Walker, "Tokyo Nectar" - July 2025

Image Size	503 mm high x 360 mm wide
Production	Carver: Chikura Kishi (岸千倉); Printer: Shota Naganuma (長沼翔太), Adachi Institute of Woodcut Prints

Alex Dodge, "Ozymandias" - August 2025

Image Size	390 mm high x 270 mm wide
Production	Carver: Chikura Kishi (岸千倉); Printer: Shota Naganuma (長沼翔太), Adachi Institute of Woodcut Prints

Ayako Rokkaku, "Untitled 3" - September 2025

Image Size	330 mm high x 525 mm wide
Production	Carver: Chikura Kishi (岸千倉); Printer: Shoko Kishi (岸翔子), Foundation Councilor

Yu Miyazaki, "Twilight" (「黄昏」) - November 2025

Image Size	350 mm high x 240 mm wide
Production	Carver: Hiromi Hasegawa (長谷川博美), Adachi Institute of Woodcut Prints; Printer: Kanome Iwasaki (岩崎果乃女), Adachi Institute of Woodcut Prints

Supporting Membership

We Are Seeking Supporters of Our Activities

The Foundation conducts a wide range of activities to preserve and pass on traditional woodcut printing techniques. To enable members of the public to support these activities, the Foundation has established a Supporting Membership program and welcomes new members.

Membership Types	Individual Members and Corporate Members
Annual Membership Fee	Individual: JPY 20,000 per unit; Corporate: JPY 100,000 per unit
Membership Period	Members joining April-September: through the end of the following April. Members joining October-March: through the end of the following October.

Benefits

- Woodcut print gift: one work per unit for individual members and five works per unit for corporate members. Members may choose from woodcut works by contemporary artists produced during the year, newly created woodblocks, and woodcut prints produced from blocks owned by the Foundation.
- Special invitations and privileges for exhibitions, regular demonstrations, woodcut printing classes, and other events organized, co-sponsored, or supported by the Foundation.
- Use of the permanent exhibition space and information center, including free access to displays, reference materials, and publications available there.

Contact / Requests for Materials

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Editor's Note

FY2025 was a year in which many ukiyo-e exhibitions were held throughout Japan, influenced by the NHK historical drama "Unbound," and interest in the techniques used to produce ukiyo-e also grew. Against this backdrop, the Foundation co-organized "Ukiyo-e In Play: Artists Re-working the Tradition of Woodcut Prints" at the Hyokeikan of the Tokyo National Museum, bringing together contemporary woodcut prints produced over the years by the Adachi Institute of Woodcut Prints, the organization from which the Foundation originated. The fact that more than 83,000 people were able to see the exhibition was a major milestone for the Foundation. From the next fiscal year onward, we will continue our activities with the aim of further deepening interest in ukiyo-e and the techniques used to create it.