

Mokuhanga Cross Culture: Europe and Japan

Artist: Laura Boswell (UK), Mara Cozzolino (Italy), Paul Furneaux (Scotland)
Date: March 6 - 13, 2019
Opening hours: 12:00 - 19:00
Venue: CfSHE Gallery
room B109, 3331 Arts Chiyoda, Soto-Kanda 6-11-14, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Admission free / Open throughout the exhibition period
Contact: Yoko Kanahama (infodesk@endeavor.or.jp)

Artists' talk event with all the exhibiting artists: March 9th at 5:30 p.m.

Mokuhanga is becoming a common word in the world of printmaking. Here we will introduce some of the European artists who exercise this technique in their countries.

Through their works we would like to learn how and why they were attracted to Mokuhanga. With technical and thematic comparisons between their works before and after Mokuhanga acquisition, we will also learn how they understand, interpret and merge the distinctions between the two cultures. Especially important are the European points of view because they have a long cultural history, and so they are an intercultural model.

We will also discover each particular way printing and carving tools are used in both cultures, which allows each artisan (and so eventually each artist) a different way of working and performing their ability. Different from the western artistic tools which are meant to be used for a specific purpose, Japanese chisels and cutting knives change their use accordingly to the artist or artisan who is handling them.

The exhibition will also talk about other features of this art which continuously attract foreign artists, which are environmentally friendly materials, practicality even in smaller spaces, as well as the portability of working tools.

In the exhibition, Laura Boswell, Mara Cozzolino and Paul Furneaux will show their latest works and some of their retrospective works. Please become witness of their works where they show each unique subject and genre with developed technique from the Mokuhanga.

■ Artists' profiles

Laura Boswell (UK)

Laura Boswell is a landscape printmaker working exclusively with linocut and traditional Japanese woodblock. She has a degree in Art History/Visual Art from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth and has recently been elected to the Royal Society of Painter Printmakers. She undertook two residencies to train

in Japan, studying woodblock printmaking with master craftsmen, and her work often looks to Japan in its use of white space and minimal approach. Laura shares the Japanese appreciation of rigorous training; her work often displays impulsive line and brushwork, requiring meticulous cutting and printing to give the impression of fluid spontaneity. Laura will be attending a further Japanese residency in 2019. In addition to her printmaking, Laura teaches, writes a column for Artists and Illustrators Magazine and works on the occasional public art project. Her prints feature in national collections including the House of Lords and the Library of Wales.

Solo Exhibitions (selection)

- 2019 Obsidian Gallery, Stoke Mandeville
- 2018 Upstairs Gallery, Berkhamsted
- 2017 Obsidian Gallery, Stoke Mandeville
- 2016 Sunbury Gallery, Sunbury on Thames
- 2016 Upstairs Gallery Berkhamsted

Selected exhibitions

- 2019 Birch Tree Gallery, Edinburgh
- 2018 show and residency with James Boswell, RK Burt Gallery, London
- 2018 Printfest, Ulveston, Cumbria - selected exhibitor
- 2016 Blackheath Gallery, London
- 2016 Art in Action, Waterperry, Oxford

Artists' Website:

<http://www.lauraboswell.co.uk>

Mara Cozzolino (Italy)

Mara was born in Turin, Italy. After practicing drawing, relief prints, painting and more recently, etching printmaking, she studied colour Intaglio with German master printmaker Kurt Mair. On a holiday trip to Japan in 2011 she fell in love with Japanese Water-based Woodblock Printing, also known as Mokuhanga. The following year she participated in the Mokuhanga Artist-In-Residency by Mokuhanga Innovation Laboratory (MI-LAB) in Kawaguchi-ko. She attended past International Mokuhanga Conferences in Kyoto, Tokyo, and in Honolulu, Hawaii. Her prints have been exhibited in Italy, England, Scotland, Japan, Spain, Cyprus and the United States.

She lives and works in Avigliana, in northwest Italy where she also teaches mokuhanga workshops.

Solo exhibitions (selection)

- 2018 *Light from the floating world*, Beertola, Cuneo, Italy
- 2016 *Luci dal mondo fluttuante 2*, Santa Croce gallery, Avigliana, Italy
- 2016 *Era una notte stellate*, Mirror gallery, Vicenza, Italy
- 2016 *Above me: a song of trees*, 3331Art Chiyoda, Tokyo

Selected exhibitions

2018 Woolwich Print Fair, London

2018 *Fragment encounters* at Impact 10, Santander, Spain

2018 *Japan*, West Yorkshire Print Workshop, UK

2017 *Beauty of Mokuhanga*, University of Manoa, Honolulu

Artist's statement

I've always been fascinated by prints and printmaking since I was 11: I've practiced different techniques and started Mokuhanga in 2011, because it is an environmentally friendly technique and not much space is needed to work. My latest prints depict trees and starry nights made with two woodblocks, one carved with small holes printed several times with different gradations of colour that will become stars, while the other intricately carved and flat printed with sumi ink to create branches and trees.

All of my "tree" prints have been inspired by old pictures taken in the winter, when the trees have no leaves, well before using them as subject for my prints. In actuality, I wasn't very interested in drawing them before using woodblock printing. Once I have chosen the photos I want to use for my inspiration, I start sketching, and at this phase I try to make it abstract as much as possible, I like to try to keep a particular tree, or set of branches, still quite recognizable but at the same time transform them into something more abstract and geometrical.

Artist's Website:

www.maracozzolino.com

Paul Furneaux (Scotland)

Paul's involvement with Mokuhanga has a long route and perhaps this is reflected in his way of working with the medium. It was in his first trip to Japan in 1990 that he looked for the first time more closely at Mokuhanga. He then met Atsushi Inoue in Scotland who demonstrated for him the Mokuhanga technique and also suggested he learn it. Paul studied the Japanese language in 1996 with scholarships, followed by one more year as a research student at Tama Art University, and then masters course before he returned to Edinburgh Scotland in 2000. He continued to use Mokuhanga as his main medium of expression.

A couple years later, his studio burned down which resulted in the loss of over a decade's works including materials and equipment from Japan.

Being invited to the Artist-In-Residence at the Center for Contemporary Printmaking in Connecticut, he started again making new works.

He also taught in Mokuhanga workshops in Edinburgh, Europe and Scandinavia and had exhibitions to introduce the technique. He was the first person who taught Mara Cozzolino the basics of Mokuhanga.

He practiced deeper the technique participating in MI-AB residency in 2012.

Afterwards, Paul's interests also extended from 2D work into 3D wall sculptural works, with developing the scale of his prints. He believes it is necessary and important to become proficient in the traditional techniques of printing and cutting while he also believes in extending these boundaries to find

one's own unique voice. Paul thinks that Mokuhanga may appear to be limiting at first but, in actuality, it is a versatile medium full of potential for individual expression that is very workable in the contemporary art world. It was the encouragement he received at Tama Art University to approach the medium in a non-traditional way which he believes opened him up to the greater possibilities of the medium.

In 2012 he showed at Tokyo Metropolitan Museum- " Prints 21" exhibition one of his wall sculptures incorporating Mokuhanga, wrapping the form in a Mokuhanga printed skin. Paul's *City Lights: City Trees* has also recently been selected in the exhibition "Art and Identity" of 50 International Artists at Browngotta Arts Gallery in the USA which will open in April 2019.

Artist's Website:

<https://www.paulfurneaux.com>

■ Mara Cozzolino will be present with one of her pieces in another venue: Inside the Main Gallery exhibition of 3331 Art Fair (Admission ticket is required).

Artist: Mara Cozzolino as the Recommended Artist by CfSHE Gallery of 3331 Art Fair

Date: March 6 (Wed) - March 10 (Sun), 2019

For opening hours and ticket information, please visit the special website of the fair at:

<https://artfair.3331.jp/en/>

Mara is an Italian printmaking artist who lives and works in Turin, Italy and is also expanding her exhibition and workshops in various places around the world.

She was one of the earliest participants in our Artist-In-Residence Program "MI-LAB", and nowadays she uses the Mokuhanga technique which she acquired at the MI-LAB.

Being introduced to Mokuhanga has completely changed her style of art. Many of her recent works show a night view with a clear silhouette of trees, where it seems that she researches darkness, which is contrary to what watercolor and the Washi effects of Mokuhanga offer, softness and gentle lights.

Motifs of her works show rather the sensibility, composition and color choices close to that of western arts. Extracting them by using Japanese traditional arts, we can see in her prints an universal theme that is fusion and/or comparison between two different cultures.