

MOKUHANGA INNOVATION LAB (MI-LAB)

Echizen Artist-in-Residence

2026 Mokuhanga Thematical Programs:

Advanced-D: from June 14 (Sun.) to July 18 (Sat.), 2026

Advanced-E: from July 26 (Sun.) to August 29 (Sat.), 2026

Mokuhanga Innovation Lab (MI-LAB) has been holding Artist-in-Residence programs of water-based woodblock printmaking techniques in Fujikawaguchiko-cho, Yamanashi Prefecture since 2011, but move to Echizen, Fukui Prefecture after the residency season of 2023. The AIR programs in 2026 will be held at MI-LAB Echizen studio near “Echizen Washi no Sato”. As you know, Echizen is one of the famous traditional production areas of Japanese paper. We are planning to offer paper making workshops in cooperation of the Udatsu Crafts Center. We are excited to invite you to MI-LAB AIR, 2026.

GUIDELINES OUTLINE

The MI-LAB Committee invites artists who want to improve Japanese water-based woodblock printmaking (Mokuhanga) skills. Artists will learn Mokuhanga under Japanese instructors and make prints while living at the Echizen residence for 35 days, including their arrival and departure dates. This is a self-support pay program, and artists need to finance themselves to participate in it.

Hereinafter, Mokuhanga Innovation Laboratory will be referred to as ‘THE ORGANIZER’, and the program as ‘THE PROGRAM’.

1 Eligibility

- I. Should have basic woodblock printmaking skills and be able to prove it in the application showing images/photography of own artworks and carved blocks.
- II. Work along with their project brief (proposal) which should include clear and detailed objectives, as well as their future plan after the Program.
- III. To raise funds for necessary costs by themselves covering travel, insurance, meals, shipping cost of the materials and all the other expenses necessary to travel and stay in Japan.
- IV. To understand English or Japanese well enough to achieve meaningful participation in the Program.
- V. To be in good health being attested by a doctor. To have no problem in staying in a traditional Japanese style two-floor residence house (see attachment No.1).
- VI. To be willing to follow the activities and residential arrangements as planned by the Organizer.
- VII. To follow residence regulations and manage residence and studio life safely and peacefully.
- VIII. To be eager to communicate in good spirit with other participating artists and local people,

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and thereby contribute to mutual understanding and goodwill between Japan and other countries.

IX. To accept the donation of the prints which you make during the Program.

2 Participation fee

Artists in this program pay **JPY 500,000** (including consumption tax + PayPal handling fee) to the MI-LAB Committee: JPY 150,000 must be paid at the time of the contract as the registration fee and the remaining JPY350,000 will be charged one month prior to the beginning of your program. Payments should be made by PayPal.

Please note that we cannot refund any money after the payment has been received, including cancellation after the final payment.

3 The maximum number of participants in the program

A program will be held with 4 to 6 participants. If the number of accepted artists to the program you applied for is less than four, you might be asked to shift to another program.

4 Organizer's obligations

The participation fee will cover the following costs and program:

I. A private room with Japanese tatami for each participant; a kitchen and a bathroom for common use.

II. A large studio with Japanese tatami for common use and one workbench for each participant. If the room is not large enough, another room will also serve as a studio.

III. The program overview:

In this program each participant will make Mokuhanga works according to his/her project submitted upon application. In addition, participants will learn Japanese style bookbinding and how to replace baren skin.

1st and 2nd week:	Technical instruction, tools and material study, self-study and follow up.
3rd week:	Self-study, follow up and 1-day papermaking workshop.
4th week	Japanese style bookbinding or framing workshop, baren skin replacing workshop
5th week:	Self-study, the review session

** The schedule may change depending on the situation.*

IV. Woodblocks, paper, watercolor paints and basic material necessary for production during

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the Program will be provided by the Organizer. Additional costs will be charged for the use of extra materials.

V. Upon request, English-speaking staff will assist you to make living in Echizen easy and comfortable.

VI. Visa support will be provided to those who need it

5. Application deadline

Monday, March 31, 2025

6. CONTACT

MI-LAB Committee/MI-LAB infodesk

c/o Center for the Science of Human Endeavor (CfSHE)

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