

MOKUHANGA INNOVATION LAB (MI-LAB)

Echizen Artist-in-Residence

2027 Mokuhanga Basic Training Programs:

Basic Training Program A (BPA): April 11, 2027 – May 15, 2027

Basic Training Program B (BPB): September 5, 2027 – October 9, 2027

Basic Training Program C (BPC): October 17, 2027 – November 20, 2027

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. It was relocated to Echizen, Fukui Prefecture after the residency season of 2023. The AIR programs have been held at MI-LAB Echizen Studio near “Echizen Washi Village” since 2024. 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, 2027.

GUIDELINES OUTLINE

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

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

1 Eligibility

- I. Be a visual artist (including designer, illustrator and bookmaker) or a teacher
- II. To have some experience with a printmaking technique. Experience with woodcuts and other relief prints will be an advantage. Even though we accept applications from artists at all levels, please note that the Program consists of fundamental Mokuhanga training, so it may not prove satisfactory to artists who have had extensive experience in this field.

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- 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 sufficiently 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, 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, of which JPY 150,000 must be paid at the time of the contract by as the registration fee and the remaining JPY 350,000 will be charged one month prior to the beginning of your program. Please pay for it by PayPal.

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

3 The number of participants

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, the program might be cancelled and 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; kitchen, bathroom and toilet will be shared with others.

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- II. A large shared studio with Japanese tatami and one workbench for each participant. If the room is not large enough, another room will also serve as a studio.
- III. Program overview (it may be subject to be changed):
In this program participants will learn the basic techniques of water-based woodblock printmaking (Mokuhanga).
The 1st week: General orientation, material orientation, tool study and 3-day intensive workshop of the basic techniques.
The 2nd – the 4th week: Technical follow-up, tool maintenance, self-study, the 1-day papermaking workshop and the papermill excursion.
The 5th week: Self-study and the review session; preparing donation prints, answering questionnaires, packing and cleaning
- IV. Woodblocks, paper, watercolor paints and basic material will be provided as necessary for production during the Program. Additional costs will be charged for the use of extra materials.
- V. Japanese carving knives, printing brushes and baren will be provided as tools to be able to bring back to home after the Program. Additional costs will be charged to order extra tools.
- VI. Upon request, English-speaking staff will assist you to make living in Echizen easy and comfortable.
- VII. Visa support will be provided to those who need it.

5. Application

Please submit your application via Google Forms: (link)

Please submit the required documents and images by email to:

Infodesk(at)endeavor.or.jp

Deadline: Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Result notification: Thursday, April 30, 2026

6. CONTACT

e-mail: infodesk(at)endeavor.or.jp

web: <http://www.endeavor.or.jp/mi-lab/>

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