

MOKUHANGA INNOVATION LAB (MI-LAB)

Echizen Artist-in-Residence

2027 Mokuhanga Special Program (1):

Sumi & Washi: February 21, 2027 – March 22, 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.

The themes of the 4th International Mokuhanga Conference (IMC2021 Nara) and the 5th International Mokuhanga Conference (IMC2024 Echizen) were *sumi* ink and Japanese paper (*washi*), respectively. Having held them successfully, we would like to propose mokuhanga artists to continue their exploration of washi and sumi. This special program is designed for advanced mokuhanga artists to obtain wide and profound knowledge about these Japanese traditional materials for arts.

GUIDELINES OUTLINE

The MI-LAB Committee invites artists who want to understand washi and sumi for water-based woodblock printmaking (mokuhanga). Artists will learn their specific characteristics and usage under experienced Japanese instructors and make prints while living at the Echizen residence for 30 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 advanced water-based woodblock printmaking skills* and be able to prove it in the application showing images/photography of own artworks and carved blocks.

**Priority will be given to the artists who have finished one of the MI-LAB AIR Advanced Programs or who have equivalent background and skills in mokuhanga. Artists with skills for applying to the Advanced Program will also be accepted if there is room for capacity.*

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

MOKUHANGA INNOVATION LAB (MI-LAB)

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 PFD “Echizen studio”).
- 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 created during the Program.

2 Participation fee

Artists in this program pay **JPY 550,000** (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 JPY400,000 will be charged one month prior to the beginning of the program. Payments should be made via PayPal.

**The amount covers the fees and expenses for the 2-day Nara Tour, a 1-day papermaking workshop at Udatsu Paper & Craft Museum and the papermill excursion in Echizen.*

**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

The program will be held with 4 to 6 participants. If the number of accepted artists to the program you applied for is less than 4, this 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 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. Projects must focus on the respective program theme.

The schedules of program is as follows:

MOKUHANGA INNOVATION LAB (MI-LAB)

The 1st week:	Orientation, technical instruction, introduction to local papermakers, the 1-day papermaking workshop and the papermill tour.
The 2 nd week:	The 2-day trip to Nara and self-study.
The 3 rd week	Follow-up sessions and self-study.
The 4 th week	Self-study, the review session and open studio.
The 5 th week	Preparing donation prints, answering questionnaires, packing and cleaning.

IV. Woodblocks, paper, watercolor paints and basic material necessary for production during the Program, other than washi** , will be provided by the Organizer. Additional costs will be charged for the use of extra materials.

***Participants are requested to purchase and use Japanese paper made in Echizen. The organizer will introduce several kinds of Echizen paper suitable for mokuhanga at the beginning and in the course of the Program.*

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

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/>