



Water Wood Paper
**Mokuhanga:
Contemporary Practice
in Japanese Woodblock
Printmaking**

FOREWORD

Elizabeth Forrest, CURATOR
JEN/KEN Arts Collective

The exhibition's purpose is to introduce to the Ontario printmaking communities, affiliated educational institutions and arts organizations, Ontario high school students and the general public, outstanding international work being done in contemporary Japanese woodblock printmaking and the relationship to its historical precedents.

The medium of *mokuhanga* itself provides a visual common thread: the works reflect a diversity of approach. Because the Japan Foundation Gallery is divided into a number of smaller exhibition spaces, this will facilitate gatherings of compatible works. The expectation is that each artist will contribute 2 - 4 works, depending on scale ranging from traditional format prints to 3-dimensional installation and large scale works. Apart from the contemporary work, there will be an educational section assembled by JUN/KEN arts member, Carol Dorman. This will consist of an historical survey of about 10 Japanese woodblock prints from the 18th to the 20th century, and include an display which will demonstrate the technical aspects of the medium.

The educational aspect of the show will be enhanced by a free, 30-40 page colour catalogue, containing an essay by participant Wayne Crothers, and representative colour images of all the exhibitors.

The participants' Printmaking *sensei* (teacher/mentor), Professor Akira Kurosaki, will be invited to attend. Formal events will include an invitation by Professor Wendy Cain, Ontario College of Art and Design, to offer a lecture at the Ontario College of Art and Design, which will address the history and evolution of the Japanese woodblock print as well as some of his specific interests. He will also be asked to introduce the theme of the show at the opening reception. Two workshops will also be held by a second visitor, Master Printer Keizo Sato. One introductory demonstration is tentatively planned for the Japan Foundation, and a more advanced and casual workshop, with a question and answer segment is to be held at Kozo Studio, a print and papermaking establishment run by Akemi Nishidera. A translator/exhibitor, Moya Bligh, from Kyoto, will accompany and translate for Mr. Sato as well as provide translation backup for Professor Kurosaki.

Japanese Artists

1 *Untitled*

by Kyoko Sakamoto

2005

Woodblock

Kyoko Sakamoto is recognized in Japan and Europe. Her work has been accepted by the Kochi International Triennial as well as the Cadaques and Lesse-dra Mini Print competitions. Her personal, surrealist images depict intense observational moments of the ordinary.

(There would be the information in relation to the depicted work)

Author's Name



International Artists

2 *Grey Grain*

by Rebecca Salter

2006

Woodblock

Rebecca Salter, England. Rebecca published a definitive update on the art of woodblock print *The Art of Japanese Woodblock Printing, 2003*. She has exhibited internationally and collections include the Tate Gallery, the British Museum, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Her experiments in woodblock explore aspects of traditional technical knowledge to create a powerful ongoing series of minimalist works.

Author's Name

