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***Kanreki: A 60 Year Journey on View this Summer at Highfield Hall & Gardens***  
***The 60th CWAJ Exhibition of Contemporary Japanese Prints***

(Falmouth, Massachusetts) *Kanreki: A 60 Year Journey* marks the 60th anniversary of the annual College Women's Association of Japan (CWAJ) print show and features the work of over 200 contemporary Japanese printmakers. Highfield Hall & Gardens is the exclusive U.S. venue for the exhibition, which debuted in Tokyo in 2015 and will be on view in Falmouth June 26 through September 14, 2016. Proceeds from the sale of the prints will support Highfield's programs and the CWAJ scholarship fund.

"We are thrilled to bring this internationally recognized exhibition of contemporary Japanese prints to the United States," said Highfield's Executive Director Peter Franklin. "This cross-cultural exhibition celebrates Japan's rich printmaking tradition while showcasing the many techniques utilized by today's contemporary printmakers."

Selected by international printmaking scholars in Japan, *Kanreki: A 60 Year Journey* presents the work of emerging artists such as Satomi Tanaka, Shoji Miyamoto, and Kazuya Kanda alongside established masters Fumiaki Fukita, Reika Iwami, Toko Shinoda, among others. From traditional Japanese printmaking arts known as *hanga* to cutting-edge contemporary practices, the prints in the exhibition represent a diverse spectrum of techniques including lithography, etching, aquatint, and silkscreen.

A highlight of the exhibition will be the work of Japanese printmaker Toko Shinoda. Shinoda's prolific career has spanned more than 80 years. A 1983 interview in *Time* magazine noted that "her trailblazing accomplishments are analogous to Picasso's."

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Shinoda works primarily with *sumi* ink paintings and prints, merging traditional calligraphy with modern Abstract Expressionism. Her work has been exhibited in museums and galleries around the world.

The exhibition will also include a section, *Seeing a Print with Fingers*, for visually impaired visitors. Hands-on Art (HOA) is inspired by CWAJ's longstanding commitment to supporting education for the visually impaired community. HOA provides a tactile experience of *hanga* by producing raised images of selected prints. Visually impaired visitors will engage with the artwork through the tactile experience of the raised image, braille transcriptions of the artist's comments, and descriptions of the print by sighted guides. *Seeing a Print with Fingers* will allow all visitors the rare opportunity to "touch" a piece of art.

In Japan, a 60th birthday is called *kanreki* and is marked as a special rite of passage. The *kanreki* is known as a rebirth or "second childhood," and the celebration provides a moment to reflect on one's life and achievements. CWAJ is celebrating its own *kanreki* with this exhibition.

Since its inception in 1956, the College Women's Association of Japan's print show has become a highly acclaimed and internationally recognized exhibition. Artists featured in the early years were pioneers of the "creative print" movement, known as *sōsaku hanga*. These works, combining centuries-old traditional printmaking techniques with individuality and freedom of expression, attracted the attention of Westerners who visited Japan and subsequently became serious collectors. In recent years, the exhibition has traveled to a number of international locations, including the British Museum in England, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. The 50th Anniversary exhibition was shown at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

### **College Women's Association of Japan**

Founded in 1949, the College Women's Association of Japan (CWAJ) is a nonprofit volunteer organization, comprised of nearly 500 women dedicated to promoting education, cross-cultural exchange, and friendship. CWAJ began when the alumnae clubs of Mount Holyoke and Wellesley colleges joined forces to provide travel grants for Japanese students to attend U.S. universities. CWAJ's services have steadily expanded to include a wide range of academic and research scholarships, courses for the visually impaired, English language learning programs, Fukushima disaster relief, public lectures and social events, and artist grants supporting innovation in the world of *hanga*. As the organization has grown, it has remained steadfast to its mission to enrich lives, encourage cross-cultural dialogue, and provide educational opportunities.

### **Highfield Hall & Gardens**

Highfield Hall & Gardens, a five-star rated destination, is a magnificent Victorian mansion with beautiful gardens located in the heart of Falmouth, Massachusetts. Built in 1878 as the summer home for Boston's Beebe family, the mansion sits on 5.5

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pristine acres surrounded by nearly 400 acres of conservation land and trails. The mansion serves as a cultural center, offering concerts, festivals, international art exhibitions, culinary classes, family programs, and educational opportunities. This family friendly estate is a “must see” for those visiting Cape Cod. Highfield Hall is open 7 days a week April 15 through October 31: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Free Friday nights from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is \$5 and children are free. For more information, phone 508-495-1878 x2 or visit [highfieldhall.org](http://highfieldhall.org).

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