Complete List of Calls and Opportunities for 2027 International Mokuhanga Conference

Theme: *Mokuhanga in a Connected World: Exploring Diverse Practices and Perspectives*
Dates of Conference: Wednesday, May 26 to Saturday, May 29, 2027
Location: The University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, USA

Proposals are currently being accepted for the 2027 International Mokuhanga Conference. This is the sixth conference, which will be held at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas, USA.

Opportunities to participate through competitive open calls include:

1. **Paper/Panel Presentations**
2. **Technical Demonstrations**
3. **Exhibitions**
4. **Student Lightning Round Presentations**
5. **Official IMA Juried Exhibition* (Application through Slideroom)**

(Participants MUST register and attend the conference in person if selected. *The only exception is for the Official International Mokuhanga Association (IMA) Juried Exhibition. You may apply for the juried exhibition without registering for the conference. All applications, except for the IMA Juried Exhibition, will be accepted via Google Forms)

Additional opportunities to participate through conference registration include:

1. **Official Print Exchange**
2. **Open Portfolio**
3. **Workshops**

(These will be "add-ons" in the registration portal. Open to all registered participants)

Please see individual category descriptions with application links below.

The theme of the 6th International Mokuhanga Conference, ***"Mokuhanga in a Connected World: Exploring Diverse Practices and Perspectives,"*** invites artists, craftspeople, scholars, researchers, enthusiasts, and students to consider both the diversity and responsibilities within this evolving tradition. Mokuhanga continues to develop in a collaborative ecology between

maker, material, and place, shaped through the interplay of hand, tool, and environment. As contemporary practice extends beyond its origins, artists and craftspeople adapt to new contexts, respond to locally available materials and pedagogical structures, and engage with evolving cultural and conceptual concerns. Shared material affinities—wood, paper, water-based pigments, and hand printing—remain foundational, even as they are continually reinterpreted across different geographies and traditions. Technology, digital communication, and online tools, when applied thoughtfully, further expand this ecosystem, opening new possibilities for exchange and experimentation. Rather than preserving a fixed or static form, the field is sustained through ongoing renewal, inviting questions of how mokuhanga can be practiced with attentiveness to lineage while also embracing innovation across time, place, and culture.

All are welcome to submit proposals for Paper/Panel Presentations, Technical Demonstrations, Exhibitions, and Student Lightning Round Presentations. However, those with accepted proposals are expected to register for the conference and attend the conference in person. (Only the Official IMA Juried Exhibition does not require conference registration and in-person conference attendance.) Proposals will be reviewed by the International Mokuhanga Association (IMA) board and the University of Kansas Conference Committee (KUCC) and evaluated on the basis of artistic and/or pedagogical merit, significance to the mokuhanga community, diversity, affinity with the conference theme, and proposal integrity. Applicants may apply to multiple events and submit multiple proposals. However, if you are selected for more than one, you must decide which one you will participate in. Our aim is to maximize the inclusion of as many participants as possible.

Timeline: (US Central Standard Time Zone)
July 2026: Call for Proposals Opens
October 5, 2026: Submission Deadline for Paper/Panel Presentations, Technical Demonstrations, Exhibitions, and Student Lightning Round Presentations
November 30, 2026: Submission Deadline for Official IMA Juried Exhibition
November 2026: Notifications of acceptance/rejection sent for Paper/Panel Presentations, Technical Demonstrations, Exhibitions, and Student Lightning Round Presentations
January 2027: Notifications of acceptance/rejection sent for Official IMA Juried Exhibition
November 2026 - early February 2027: Early Bird Registration period
April 30, 2027: Submission of Final Paper/Panel Presentation for digital publication, submission of final PowerPoint Presentation file for the Student Lightning Round Presentation, and submission of prints for Official Print Exchange due.
May 26-29, 2027: 6th International Mokuhanga Conference in Lawrence, Kansas, USA

Paper/Panel Presentations [LINK]

Applicants can apply for either a 15-minute individual presentation or a 45-minute panel presentation with 3-4 panelists. 15-minute Individual presentation applicants will be grouped with two other individual presenters who share a theme. Both sessions will have additional time for Q&A. If your proposal is selected, in addition to the presentation at the conference, **you will submit a final written abstract for the post-conference digital publication by April 30, 2027**.

When submitting a paper/panel presentation, please select one to two of the categories below that best represent your presentation.

1) Environment
    a) Mokuhanga is an environmentally conscious practice. How are artists incorporating sustainable materials in their mokuhanga practice?

    b) What innovative ways are artists adapting mokuhanga practices in new environments outside of Japan?

2) Education
    Teaching through universities, workshops, residencies, and K-12 education offers a range of new ways to explore teaching and learning mokuhanga. In addition, digital technology, online learning platforms, and social media enable the widespread distribution of information. What are the innovations in teaching and learning of mokuhanga?

3) Contemporary Collaborative Printing
    Rooted in the traditional roles, what are the new relationships between artists, carvers, and printers in Japan and beyond?

4) Art History and Theory
    Through a historical and contemporary art lens, we consider the philosophical and cultural interpretations of mokuhanga.

        a) What conversations are happening between mokuhanga and the wider East Asian woodblock printing traditions?

        b) Analysis of a historical and modern/contemporary artist's work/life or artistic movement, philosophies, and theories related to mokuhanga practice.

        c) Philosophies and practices that disrupt expectation and emphasize ambiguity, overlap, and contradiction. (ie. queer theory)

5) Technology
    Woodblock printing maintains its essential relationship with technology, as artists contend with the old and the new, the hand and the mechanical, the physical and the digital.

a) Traditional handcrafted tools, materials, and techniques are essential to the mokuhanga process. How are these ancient technologies preserved or reinvented?

b) In the digital age, what does it mean to make things by hand?

c) How is new technology used in mokuhanga?

6) The Edge of Mokuhanga
New innovations, contemporary artistic perspectives, and hybrid practices provide rich territory for exploration and creativity. Wood, water-based pigment, hand-printing, and washi are perhaps considered the essential ingredients for mokuhanga. In a process deeply connected to the traditions of craft, what are the ways that we bend, stretch, and question the boundaries of mokuhanga*?*

7) Other
As you explore diverse practices and perspectives, is there an additional category you would like to address in your presentation?

Technical Demonstrations [LINK]

Technical demonstrations can include traditional and innovative mokuhanga processes or demonstrations of the production or caring of tools and/or materials associated with mokuhanga printing (for example, baren making, tool sharpening, papermaking, pigment making, etc.). If your proposal is accepted, you are expected to register and attend the 2027 Mokuhanga Conference in person to present your demonstration.

The University of Kansas (KU) Printmaking area offers a full range of printmaking facilities (Intaglio, Lithography, Relief, Screenprinting, and Digital) and can provide a limited supply of basic mokuhanga tools. However, we encourage demonstrators to bring all necessary tools and equipment. Additionally, KU has studio areas in Ceramics, Expanded Media, Painting/Drawing, Metalsmithing/Jewelry, Sculpture, and Textiles/Fibers with facilities that could be accessed depending on the demonstration. Below is the list of additional equipment available at KU.

The University of Kansas Facilities and Equipment:

KU Printmaking Area Facilities [LINK]

KU Visual Art Department Wood Shop and Metal Fabrication Lab Facilities [LINK]

KU Visual Art Technology Lab (VAST Lab) Equipment below:

- Laser cutter: Epilog Fusion M2 60W- cutting size 32"x 20" & Boss Laser HP3655 155W- cutting size 33.5" x 54.5"

- 3D Printer: Ender 3 S1 - printing size 220mm x 220mm x 270mm (8 available)

- Vinyl cutter: Vinyl Express - up to 24" roll of material

- CNC Router: Techno CNC Titan - cutting size 48" x 96"

*Please email mokuhangaconference@gmail.com for questions related to facilities and equipment

Exhibitions [LINK]

Open to individuals or groups to propose curated mokuhanga exhibitions. Solo or group exhibition proposals should have a primary focus on mokuhanga. If your exhibition proposal is accepted, you (or a participant in your exhibition) are expected to register for and attend the 2027 Mokuhanga Conference in person, and to be responsible for the installation and deinstallation of your exhibition. (You may be required to arrive a day or two before the start of the conference and leave later, in order to install and take down the exhibition.) You are also responsible for shipping and insuring your work, if desired.

In addition to written information in the application, you will be required to upload a PDF of up to 12 slides as an attachment for your exhibition proposal submission. Please use the following format:

PDF file name: YourLastName_YourFirstName.pdf (Maximum file Size: 10 MB)

Please include the following in the PDF slides:
Slide #1: Your Name, Title of Exhibition, Participating Artists
Slide #2: Exhibition Description (3000 characters maximum including spaces)
Slide #3 - #12: Ten images of representative work for your exhibition. Each image should include artist's name, title of artwork, dimensions (in inches), medium, and date.

We suggest that you use Google Slides, PowerPoint, or Canva to create this document, then save it as a PDF.

Please refer to this Sample Submission when creating the PDF file.

Student Lightning Round Presentations [LINK]

In the Student Lightning Round Presentations, selected participants will give a **6-minute** PowerPoint slide presentation on their artwork, inspiration, and process in mokuhanga. Students are defined as someone learning mokuhanga in a college or academic setting, including beginners learning through workshops or other training programs, as well as newly self-taught individuals. If your proposal is accepted, you are expected to register for and attend the 2027 Mokuhanga Conference in person and to **submit your PowerPoint Presentation in full by April 30, 2027**.

In addition to written information, you will be required to upload a PDF of up to 7 slides as an attachment for your submission. Please use the following format:

PDF file name: YourLastName_YourFirstName.pdf (Maximum File size: 10 MB)

Please include the following:
Slide #1: Your Name
Slide #2: Short Artist Statement (1200 characters maximum with spaces)
Slide #3 - #7: Five images of representative work for your presentation. Each image should include artist's name, title of artwork, dimensions (in inches), medium, and date.

We suggest that you use Google Slides, PowerPoint, or Canva to create this document, then save it as a PDF.

Please refer to this Sample Submission when creating the PDF file.

Official IMA Juried Exhibition [LINK]

The Lawrence Arts Center Gallery (https://lawrenceartscenter.org/) will host the International Mokuhanga Association (IMA) Juried Exhibition during the 6th International Mokuhanga Conference in Lawrence, Kansas, USA. This exhibition will be juried by **Mara Cozzolino** (Artist, Italy), **Florence Neal** (Co-Founder/Artistic Director, Kentler International Drawing Space, New York), and **YUNG, Sau-mui** (Program Director, Print Art Contemporary, Hong Kong).

The exhibition will run from May 21 to June 19, 2027, with a reception on the evening of Friday, May 28, 2027. While the IMA Juried Exhibition will coincide with the 6th International Mokuhanga Conference, applicants are not required to register for the conference in order to submit work for this exhibition.

TIMELINE:
Submission deadline: Monday, November 30, 2026, 11:59 PM USA CST
Tentative notification of acceptance: January 2027
Lawrence Arts Center Art Loan Agreement form due: April 1, 2027
Delivery of work to the gallery with Inventory Form: April 30, 2027
Exhibition: May 21 - June 19, 2027
Reception: Friday, May 28, 2027
Return of Work: Work that is not donated to the KU printmaking archive will be shipped back to artists by September. Artists must include a pre-paid return shipping label with the artwork if they wish to have their work returned.

ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS:
• To submit work, visit: https://lawrenceartscenter.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/89852
• No more than three entries per artist are permitted.
• Payment for this entry is $20 USD via SlideRoom.
• Original works with mokuhanga as the primary medium are eligible. Other print media can be included, as long as mokuhanga is the primary medium.
• Images must be in .jpg format and sized under 2MB.
• The maximum height and width of both two- and three-dimensional work is 40 inches. Works that exceed the size limitation will NOT be reviewed by the juror.
• Pedestals are available in a range of sizes up to 24 inches square; work requiring a vitrine must fit within a 23-inch cube.
• Work intended to hang from the ceiling is not permitted.
• Works accepted into previous IMA Juried Exhibition are not eligible.
• Entrants will be notified of acceptance status at the email provided in the submission process.
• Entries must be submitted by 11:59 PM USA Central Time on November 30, 2026.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCEPTED APPLICANTS:
• All work must be unframed.
• Works may be hand-delivered or shipped. **Artists are responsible for all shipping charges, including return shipping.** Artists who want their work returned must utilize sturdy, reusable containers and provide prepaid return labels inside the package upon delivery. Artists are responsible for insuring their work while in transit. No weekend deliveries, please. Artists may use FedEx, UPS, USPS, or an art shipper as a carrier to ship their work.
• If the artist does not include a return shipping label, we will assume that the work will be donated to the KU printmaking archive. These works will be used for educational purposes.

• After acceptance, artists will sign an exhibition contract with the Lawrence Arts Center. This communication will occur via email with the gallery director, not IMA. Work cannot be accepted unless the contract and the fillable PDF inventory sheet have been submitted to the Gallery Director at least one week before the work is scheduled to arrive.
• Work must arrive at Lawrence Art Center by April 30, 2027.
• Artists may not substitute another work for an accepted work, alter a work, nor withdraw a work after it has been accepted. Lawrence Arts Center reserves the right to refuse any entry that does not match the image submitted or meet the criteria. Lawrence Arts Center reserves the right to refuse work that is not appropriate for the space.
• Every precaution will be taken to handle artwork with the utmost care. Lawrence Arts Center will not be responsible for any damage or loss during transportation. Accepted works will be insured for the duration of the exhibition; however, artists are responsible for ensuring their work while in transit.
•The Arts Center shall be responsible for conducting any and all sales transactions and holding any sales proceeds associated with the exhibition. The Arts Center shall retain forty percent (40%) of the sales associated with the exhibition and shall pay the artist the remaining sixty percent (60%) of the sales.
• Several prizes will be awarded at the reception. Details for the prize amounts and sponsors are forthcoming. Stay tuned to IMA social media and email communication for details.

DELIVER WORK TO:
Lawrence Arts Center
ATTN: Blanca Herrada
940 New Hampshire St.
Lawrence, KS, 66044
USA

Please include the Lawrence Arts Center Artwork Inventory form with your work.

QUESTIONS:
Please email questions to mokuhangaconference@gmail.com with “2027 Official Juried Exhibition Question” in the subject line.

Official Print Exchange [LINK]

The 6th International Mokuhanga Conference Official Print Exchange is open to participants attending the conference at The University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA, May 26 – May 29, 2027. Artists can sign up to participate in the Official Print Exchange during the early-bird registration

period. The deadline to sign up for participation is the last day of the early-bird registration period. There is a $10 fee, and prints (Ed. 1/11-11/11) need to be **received by Friday, April 30, 2027**. See below for detailed guidelines and mailing address.

Theme: *Our Connected World*
Medium: Mokuhanga should be the primary medium. It can include other print media as long as mokuhanga is the primary medium.
Paper size: 9 x 12 inches (horizontal or vertical)
Image size: Any size within 9 x 12 inch paper
Edition size: Open, but you need to make a minimum edition of 11 to give away. The #1 print in the edition will be exhibited during the conference and added to the KU Printmaking archive. Prints #2 - #11 will be given to other participants in the print exchange. You will not get your own print back in the exchange print, so you may want to make extra prints in the edition for yourself.

Participants will mail Ed. #1 - #11 to the address below by the due date. At the conference, you will pick up a collection of 10 randomly selected prints by other artists. We will not be mailing back prints to participants.

Address:
IMC Print Exchange
c/o Mary Anne Jordan
The University of Kansas
1467 Jayhawk Blvd. #300
Lawrence, KS 66045
USA

Please email questions to mokuhangaconference@gmail.com with “2027 Official Print Exchange Question” in the subject line.

Open Portfolio [LINK]

Participants can sign up for Open Portfolio through conference registration. It will be an “add-on” charge for participating. ($20)

Workshops [LINK]

Workshop information will be announced when the conference registration opens.
Participants can sign up for short workshops during the conference registration. Space will be limited, and a small fee will apply for participation.

Some Guiding Questions for Application

- How do you define mokuhanga within your practice? Does your work expand, question, or reinterpret the term?
- How do you engage with woodblock traditions beyond Japan, including Korean, Chinese, Tibetan, or other regional practices?
- How do you position your practice in relation to the traditional practice, such as *ukiyo-e,* and its visual language, collaborative system, and/or method of production?
- In what ways does geography—local materials, climate, ecology, or cultural context—shape your approach to mokuhanga?
- How does your practice respond to mokuhanga as a collaborative ecology between artist, material, and environment?
- What responsibilities arise when working with techniques that originate outside your own cultural background? How does your work address lineage, transmission, and ethical participation?
- How does your practice contribute to a connected global dialogue around mokuhanga?
- In what ways are new technologies influencing your process, such as digital design, laser cutting, hybrid workflows, online collaboration, online resources, etc.?
- How do you balance tradition and innovation in your work?
- How does your work address sustainability, environmental awareness, or material consciousness within water-based woodblock practice?
- How can mokuhanga function as a site of cross-cultural exchange, translation, or collaboration?
- What new directions or future possibilities for mokuhanga does your work propose?