



# KENTLER INTERNATIONAL DRAWING SPACE

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# NEW YORK MOKUHANGA

## Water-based Woodblock Prints

**CURATOR:** Florence Neal

**ARTISTS:** Takuji Hamanaka, Ursula Schneider, Yasu Shibata, April Vollmer

**EXHIBITION DATES:** November 7 – December 14, 2014

**ARTISTS' & CURATOR'S TALK:** Sunday, December 7, 4 pm

**Mokuhanga Demonstration with April Vollmer:** Sunday, November 16, 4 pm

**OPEN FREE TO THE PUBLIC:** Thursday - Sunday 12 – 5pm

Kentler International Drawing Space is pleased to present *New York Mokuhanga*, a group exhibition featuring four New York State artists working in the traditional mokuhanga Japanese woodblock technique.

The Japanese character for mokuhanga can be translated into moku - wood and hanga - print. Known for its vivid color and illusory perspectival effects, mokuhanga is a water-based printmaking process perfected in Japan during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. From the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present, its application has evolved from book reproduction and the commercial *Ukiyo-e* woodcuts of Japanese scenes and landscapes, to highly expressive, original fine art prints produced internationally by a growing number of artists today. The skilled procedure involves the use of numerous woodblocks, each printed with a different color, which are hand-printed on Japanese (washi) paper using a flat disc called a baren.

The artists represented in *New York Mokuhanga* embody the simultaneous endurance and transformation of mokuhanga's traditional methods. Hamanaka, Schneider, Shibata, and Vollmer use a range of styles, subjects and technical modifications to expand and reinvent this once meticulously uniform practice. Hamanaka and Shibata studied with master printers in their native Japan before moving to the United States in the early 1990s, where they have worked independently and in collaboration with Western artists. Ursula Schneider, originally from Switzerland, began making Japanese woodcuts in the late 1980s, and American-born April Vollmer, in the 1990s. Their passion for the survival of this specialized medium has led some of the artists to teach this technique alongside their studio work.

A curator and artist talk will be held Sunday, December the 7th at 4pm. The public is invited.

Kentler International Drawing Space, founded by two artists in 1990, is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing contemporary drawings and works on paper by emerging and under-recognized national and international artists to the public, and to providing the opportunity to experiment, explore and expand the definition of art in society. Kentler programs: Exhibitions & Events; K.I.D.S. Art Education; and The Kentler Flatfiles, a compendium of drawings and works on paper by over 200 artists available for viewing by appointment.

Exhibitions, events and education programs are made possible with public funds from: The New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with City Council. Other supporters include: The Fort Trustee Fund, CFCV; Lily Auchincloss Foundation; The Athena Foundation; Postindustrial Productions Inc.; The Gifford Foundation; Epson America Inc.; Materials for the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs/NYC Department of Sanitation/ NYC Department of Education; and the many valued artists, friends & supporters of the gallery.



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