
About the artists:

LINDA BEEMAN

“A KAKI GROWS IN SHIGA”



Linda is from Lansing, MI and holds degrees from Dundas Valley School of Art, Ontario, Canada and the University of Kansas. In 2012, Linda did a residency at Mokuhanga Innovation Laboratory near Mt. Fuji in Yamanishi. She is the owner of the Linda J. Beeman studio in Lansing.

Contact: lindajbeeman@hotmail.com

RUTH EGNATER

“CHERRY KOI”

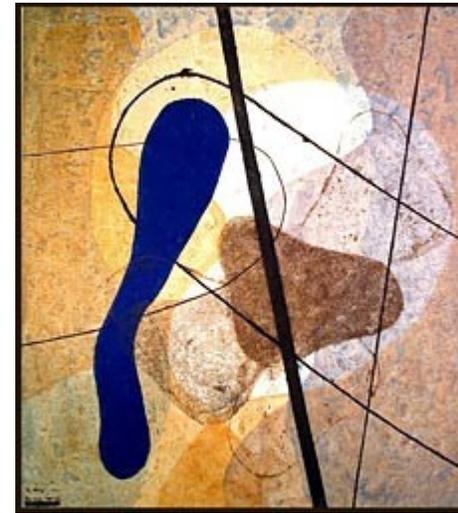


Ruth is from Okemos, MI
Trained by her mother (a professional artist), Ruth has done artwork since childhood, but became interested in printmaking 8 years ago, after attending a class.
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In Appreciation

Special thanks to those who donated time, material, or financial resources to make this year's annual meeting possible: Linda Beeman, Ruth Egnater, Angie Gaspar, Janice Katz, Yoko Kiboshi, Marjorie Kinsey, Margaret Larson, Go Sugiura; Kay Sugiura, Ken Tornheim, and Roberta Wollons.

どうもありがとうございます!



Onchi Koshiro, “Forme No. 15 Things Moving,” 1952
Statler Collection, Art Institute of Chicago

Kobe College Corporation- Japan Education Exchange (KCC-JEE)

presents the

2013 Annual Meeting: Oliver Hadley Statler and Kobe College

Date: September 21, 2013

Time: 2:00-5:00

Program

**2:00-2:30 Business: Election Results/Introduction of
Special Guests**

Go Sugiura

2:30-2:45 Greetings from Kobe College

Dr. Koichi Mori

2:45-3:00 2013 Essay Contest Winner

Grace Bologna

3:00-3:10 Background on Oliver Hadley Statler

Jeanne Sokolowski

3:10-3:30 Documentary

**The Pilgrimage to the Eighty-Eight Sacred Places of
Shikoku**

Roberta Wollons

3:30-4:00 Statler: Sosaku Hanga Collector

Marjorie Kinsey

4:00 Raffle of Woodblock Prints

Angie Gaspar

4:00-5:00 Reception



Photo from the Illinois Digital Archives

MEMORIALS

I truly remember my next door neighbor Oliver with huge fondness and delight. Please extend my regrets and my delight that Oliver will be remembered in this gracious way. He would smile. (Cathy Davidson, Kobe College guest professor, 1980-1981)

I can remember that he told Michio Okamoto, who was our President at that time, that Kobe College should build a new library. Mr. Okamoto told me then that this advice given by Statler was the main reason why we had built the New Library. (Professor Ohno, Intercultural Department, Kobe College)

There is no Japanese woodblock artist working today who does not know and revere Oliver Statler, a quiet American who entered Japan as a civilian employee of the army during the first years of the Occupation, and ended as a private citizen dedicated to scholarship. (James Michener, introduction to *Modern Japanese Prints*, 1956)



Several years ago I was invited to become a member of the board of directors of the Kobe College Corporation in Chicago. This gave me an opportunity to get acquainted, in at least a small way, with Kobe College, and to learn something of its history, plans, and aspirations. I was impressed by the lively support given the College by the members of the Corporation, some of whom had taught here. I was delighted by the group of girls from the High School who visited the U. S. for home stays arranged by the Corporation. My experience on the board made me look forward with special interest to a year on the campus as a visiting professor.

Yet I was not prepared for the particular challenges of teaching in Japan and at the College. It is my students who have had to teach me, and I am grateful to them for their patience. In the short time that I have been here I have come to respect the intelligence and poise with which they cope with instruction in English and the way they respond to their assignments. I know that I will be enriched by my experience at the College; I hope that in return I can give something worthwhile to my students.

Since my field of interest is the cultural history of Japan it can be said that I bring coals to Newcastle, but I hope that the enthusiasm I feel—and perhaps a foreigner's point of view, though at times it may seem outrageous—will encourage some students to look more deeply into their own great heritage.

Oliver Statler

Kobe College Bulletin, No. 71 (September 15, 1980)

Documentary

Statler wrote, narrated, and directed the 30 minute documentary “The Pilgrimage to the Eighty-Eight Sacred Places of Shikoku” (Ueda Film) in 1983, the same year as the publication of his book *Japanese Pilgrimage*.

Statler worked with Matsuyama filmmaker Ueda Masakazu to make this film during his time as a visiting professor at Kobe College from 1980-1981. It was first screened in 1983, at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in San Francisco. (Biography of Oliver Statler, University of Hawaii at Manoa library website)

What is Sosaku Hanga?



Saito Kiyoshi, “Cat,” n.d.
Statler Collection, Art Institute of Chicago

Sōsaku-hanga, literally “creative prints” was an art movement in early 20th-century Japan. In opposition to *ukiyo-e* prints, which were drawn by one artist, carved by another, and printed by a third, *sosaku-hanga* are created by one artist from start to finish.

Koshiro Onchi, one of the founders of the *sosaku hanga* movement, wrote, “The virtue of *hanga* lies in the certainty that it comes from a creative process which permits no sham... It is honest—sham and errors show.”

A Brief Biography of Statler

Oliver Hadley Statler was born in 1915 to Mae (Hadley) and Dr. Oliver I. Statler of Huntley, IL. After graduating from Elgin Academy, he attended the University of Chicago, where he received a BA in 1936 and performed in several plays, including a production of Hamlet in which George Orwell starred.

After graduating, he worked in the Business department at the University until 1941, when he was drafted into the Army.

After the war, Statler took a civil service position with the Occupation Army and worked in Yokohama until 1954, after which he remained to research and write. Thus began his period of publishing about Japan: *Modern Japanese Prints* was released in 1956, *Japanese Inn* came out in 1961, followed by *Black Ship Scrolls* in 1963 and *Shimoda Story* in 1969.

Statler worked on scripts for an Edwin O. Reischauer-sponsored TV series on Japanese history and culture in the early 70s. He also received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1973, which allowed him to return to Japan and do research on the Shikoku pilgrimage route, leading to *Japanese Pilgrimage* (1983).

In 1977, he was invited to serve as a visiting professor in the Department of Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii in Manoa, with which he remained affiliated until his death. He was also asked to teach as guest professor at Kobe College (1980-1981) and Carleton College (1983).

Oliver Hadley Statler died on February 14, 2002. His ashes were scattered off the coast of Waikiki.

(Adapted from the Biography of Oliver Statler, University of Hawaii at Manoa website)

Oliver Statler and Kobe College

Through the Japan America Society of Chicago, Statler met KCC board members David Larson and his wife Margaret.

According to Margaret, Statler (who was on the board of KCC from 1974-1977) had expressed interest in visiting Japan again to do research. Around the same time (the late 1970s), Kobe College president Michi Okamoto wrote to Dave Larson, then president of KCC, to inquire about hosting a lecturer from the U.S. Larson made arrangements to send Statler there in 1980-1981, supported by the Megumi Fund (bi-annual fund of the alumnae association for inviting a foreign faculty member).

Statler taught at Kobe College in the Intercultural Studies and English departments. He lived in the faculty apartment in Nigawa, neighbors with Cathy Davidson, who was on exchange from Michigan State University.

In a report to Dave Larson and the KCC board, Statler noted that he had a very warm welcome at KC. His suggestions for KC included expanding career education training and increasing the support for English language instruction for all students, not just English majors. He particularly recommended a language laboratory and expanding the library.

To do his part at improving the English of KC students and “make [his] students want to master the material and go further on their own,” Statler took a creative approach to teaching; in one class, he had students "dictate" the words of Gershwin's lyrics from listening to his music.

During his tenure at KC, Statler appeared on NHK television to talk about his research on the Shikoku pilgrimage. KC staff member Yoko Kiboshi and her family also accompanied him to Shingon-shu temple in Wakayama (Mt. Koya); they had planned to go to Shikoku, but the summer was prohibitively hot.

Statler noted in his farewell address that he hoped that Kobe College could anticipate and help formulate the changes in women's education that accompanied the feminist movement.