Bird Prints by Female Japanese Artists
Introduction

In Japan, professional artists have traditionally been men rather than women. All printed art featuring birds was made by men until the 1950s when it became acceptable for women to also be professional artists. Since then about ninety female Japanese artists have made one or more bird prints. These prints are stylistically diverse because modern artists, both women and men, are expected to express their individuality in their work. Some artists have chosen to draw birds accurately while most others have intentionally drawn birds only semi-accurately or inaccurately. More women than men have chosen the latter option, as shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accuracy of bird shape and color</th>
<th>Female Artists</th>
<th>Male Artists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accurate</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-accurate</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inaccurate</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The stylistic diversity of modern bird prints is also due in part to the variety of printing methods now used by both female and male artists, as shown in the table below. Woodblock printing was the only method used before the 1950s.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printing method</th>
<th>Female Artists</th>
<th>Male Artists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woodblock</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intaglio</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screenprint</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithograph</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This virtual exhibition illustrates the stylistic diversity of bird prints made by fifty female Japanese artists who are represented in the Reader Collection of Japanese Art. For each of the fifty prints the following information is provided: names of the artist and the bird drawn (if known), accuracy, printing method, title (if any) and print size. Prints are arranged in descending order of accuracy.
1 Etsuko Ishikawa – hazel grouse (*Bonasa bonasia*), accurate, intaglio, entitled walking, 215 x 190 mm

2 Mihoko Kasamatsu – oriental greenfinch (*Carduelis sinica*), accurate, woodblock, entitled early spring, 320 x 240 mm
3 Hiroko Ogihara – albino Java sparrow (*Padda oryzivora*), semi-accurate, lithograph, entitled spring white, 350 x 455 mm

4 Kumiko Kita – oriental magpie robin (*Copsychus saularis*), semi-accurate, lithograph, 235 x 235 mm
5 Fū Takenaka - Ural owl (*Strix uralensis*), semi-accurate, woodblock, entitled happiness, 230 x 320 mm

6 Natsuo Ikegami – Daurian redstart (*Phoenicurus auroreus*), semi-accurate, woodblock, 110 x 110 mm
7 Hiroko Yamada – scops owl (*Otus* sp.), semi-accurate, intaglio, entitled hunting, 300 x 240 mm

8 Hideko Nagahama – oriental turtle-dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*), semi-accurate, intaglio, entitled with all my heart, 200 x 250 mm
9  **Noriko Iino** – spot-billed duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*), semi-accurate, lithograph, entitled a spotbill duck, 345 x 480 mm

10  **Tomoko Kyūki** - common cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*), semi-accurate, woodblock, entitled bird’s time – cuckoo, 100 x 150 mm
11 Akiko Yoshimura – Daurian redstart (*Phoenicurus auroreus*), semi-accurate, screenprint, entitled happy wedding XXIV, 215 x 225 mm

12 Tomiko Matsuno – Ural owl (*Strix uralensis*), semi-accurate, intaglio, 210 x 250 mm
13  **Fumiko Hori** – swan (*Cygnus* sp.) and unknown birds, semi-accurate, screenprint, entitled rose lake from the Nutcracker, 645 x 375 mm

14  **Naomi Hashimoto** – dove (*Columba* sp.), semi-accurate, lithograph, entitled *uccello*, 200 x 200 mm
15 Motomi Tsunoda – Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*), semi-accurate, lithograph, entitled Fuji birds – parenting, 210 x 295 mm

16 Kiyomi Moji – scops owl (*Otus scops*) and pygmy woodpecker (*Dendrocopos kizuki*), semi-accurate, woodblock, entitled home in the forest, 215 x 240 mm
17 Ayaka Sen – Ural owl (*Strix uralensis*), semi-accurate, screenprint, entitled Midas touch, 200 x 275 mm

18 Hiroko Ikezumi – large-billed crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*), semi-accurate, woodblock, entitled early afternoon, 240 x 320 mm
19 Masumi Ozawa – Daurian redstart (*Phoenicurus auroreus*), semi-accurate, screenprint, entitled ride on the bird, 135 x 165 mm

20 Makiko Hattori – scops owl (*Otus* sp.), semi-accurate, intaglio, entitled moonlight, 95 x 130 mm
21 Michi Fukui – canary (*Serinus canaria*), semi-accurate, woodblock, entitled east wind, 260 x 210 mm

22 Yukie Matsui – Ural owl (*Strix uralensis*), semi-accurate, intaglio, entitled always together, 240 x 170 mm
23 Hitomi Ogawa – mythical hō-ō bird, semi-accurate, woodblock, entitled lucky bird, 225 x 290 mm

24 Taeko Takabe – domestic fowl (Gallus gallus), semi-accurate, screenprint, 270 x 265 mm
25 Mirei Kodama – red-crowned crane (*Grus japonensis*), semi-accurate, lithograph, entitled crane month, 660 x 500 mm

26 Shima Yoshida – toucan (*Ramphastos* sp.), semi-accurate, woodblock, entitled samurai toucan bird, 660 x 245 mm
27  **Yasuko Nakanishi** – unknown bird, inaccurate, intaglio, entitled *energy*, 235 x 190 mm

28  **Yoshiko Sawa** – peafowl (*Pavo* sp.), inaccurate, screenprint, 290 x 210 mm
29 **Eiko Kawakubo** – unknown bird, inaccurate, intaglio, entitled Mexico, 195 x 165 mm

30 **Shiratori Mizue** – unknown bird, inaccurate, intaglio, entitled juego, 180 x 100 mm
31 Shiho Murakami – unknown birds, inaccurate, intaglio, 100 x 150 mm

32 Asako Toyoizumi – Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*), inaccurate, screenprint, entitled red bird, 185 x 190 mm
33  **Reika Iwami** – unknown bird, inaccurate, woodblock, entitled *water fantasy* – E, 510 x 345 mm

34  **Hideko Seki** – unknown bird, inaccurate, intaglio, entitled *au jardin*, 330 x 250 mm
35 Tamami Shima – crane (*Grus* sp.), inaccurate, woodblock, entitled resting birds in eternal love, 530 x 840 mm

36 Mio Omori – unknown bird, inaccurate, intaglio, entitled night bird, 440 x 595 mm
37 Yasuko Onishi – unknown bird, inaccurate, woodblock, entitled winter’s day, 460 x 590 mm

38 Naoko Tanikawa – unknown bird, inaccurate, screenprint, entitled umbrella, 260 x 365 mm
39 Keiko Minami – unknown bird, inaccurate, intaglio, 370 x 450 mm

40 Fumiko Odajima – unknown bird, inaccurate, woodblock, entitled melody II, 140 x 140 mm
41 **Akiko Ohba** – unknown birds, inaccurate, woodblock, entitled strange bird trainer, 180 x 175 mm

42 **Kieko Tsurusawa** – Japanese bush-warbler (*Cettia diphone*), inaccurate, woodblock, 150 x 125 mm
43  **Tazuko Nakamura** – unknown bird, inaccurate, intaglio, entitled bird, 355 x 265 mm

44  **Junko Ozaki** – unknown bird, inaccurate, lithograph, entitled night tree – d, 280 x 250 mm
45  **Asako Sasaki** – unknown bird, inaccurate, lithograph, entitled bird, 455 x 620 mm

46  **Keiko Arakawa** – unknown bird, inaccurate, intaglio, entitled walking on the way to home, 305 x 485 mm
47 **Yūko Kanaeda** – unknown birds, inaccurate, woodblock, 115 x 140

48 **Chieko Ishida** – unknown bird, inaccurate, woodblock, 160 x 120 mm
49 **Eiko Nakagawa** – scops owl (*Otus* sp.), inaccurate, woodblock, entitled *owl*, 150 x 150 mm

50 **Fusako Yose** – unknown bird, inaccurate, screenprint, entitled *music of Andean civilization 4*, 280 x 380 mm