

## **Call for Fellows: Ponja Wiki Initiative**

In collaboration with Asia Art Archive in America (AAA-A), PoNJA-GenKon (Ponja) is pleased to announce “Ponja Wiki Initiative” (PWI), calling for Fellows to act as “editors” (Wiki’s terminology for writers) to contribute Wikipedia entries focusing on post-1945 Japanese art history.

### **Introduction**

In recent years, Wikipedia has become the established go-to source for information on an ever-expanding list of disciplines, including art history. The Museum of Modern Art’s Online Collection increasingly rely on Wiki for artist’s biographies, incorporating Wiki entries along with Getty records. The representation of Japanese artists and movements, however, is far fewer and far less substantial in terms of the number and length of entries than that of postwar and contemporary European and American art. This lack of presence and information on Wiki—the presumed absolute repository of knowledge—perpetuates the peripheral status of Japanese art within a global art history. The Ponja Wiki Initiative would be a multi-year project to address this imbalance of art historical information available online by recruiting emerging scholars to serve as trained Wiki “editors” (the distinct Wiki terminology, for the site’s focus on “editing” existing information for entries) in order to dramatically expand the number and length of entries on postwar and contemporary Japanese artists and movements.

These efforts would help to further expand the presence of the field while offering free access for a global online public to greater information on postwar and contemporary Japanese Art in the English language.

The goal for the first year is the total of 100 entries on artists, collectives, and movements that have been historically marginalized (including indigenous and diasporic queer/nonbinary-identified artists). They will be newly generated or expanded/edited from existing entries.

We hope this initiative will serve a model for how to initiate Wiki entries for other understudied and underrepresented regional fields of art history.

### **Motivation**

This program is an emergency response to assist emerging scholars whose livelihoods have been impacted by COVID-19.

### **Method**

This project will be organized by AAA-A and Ponja and overseen by an Editorial Committee whose members are Jane DeBevoise, Alexandra Munroe, Miwako Tezuka, Ming Tiampo, and Reiko Tomii.

\*\*\*

AAA-A and Ponja call for emerging scholars to apply for the position of Fellows for the PWI project. Fellows will receive an **honorarium** for a one-year fellowship / contract (January – December 2021). Payment of \$2,500 per Fellow will be made in two installments (upon

completion of 5 500-plus-word entries for each installment).

**Duties** of Fellows are as follows:

- = Responsible for researching, editing, and writing multiple entries on Wiki for artists / collectives / movements from a curated list provided by PWI Editorial Committee
- = Responsible for 10 entries per year with a minimum of 500 words each

We will **select 5 to 10 scholars** based on the below requirements.

### **General requirements**

- = Graduate students and college seniors in university
- = New graduates (with bachelor/master/doctoral degrees) within three years may also apply, although priority will be given to current students
- = Major in Art History, Japan Studies, 20th Century Studies, or Asian Studies
- = Japanese language a plus, but not necessary
- = Extensive research and writing skills

### **Interested applicants, please send below materials.**

- = Name / e-mail address / Current location or postal address
- = Status (Graduate / Senior in Undergraduate, etc.)
- = 250-word statement of intent
- = Short sample Wiki intro text consisting of the first few paragraphs that appear in a Wiki entry of an artist/group/movement of your choice that is not currently in Wiki. (Some past examples created under the auspices of AAA-A/AAA/M+ edit-a-thons include:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Firenze\\_Lai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Firenze_Lai)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fang\\_Zhaoling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fang_Zhaoling)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nancy\\_Atakan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nancy_Atakan)

You can find an extensive list at: [stories.mplus.org.hk/en/wikithon-results](https://stories.mplus.org.hk/en/wikithon-results)

Interested applicants are encourage to join or observe an Exhibition History Wiki-thon co-hosted by AAA-A and Ponja on November 21 (announcement to be made), although participation is optional.

**Application deadline: November 25, 2020**

Mail to [MailPonja@gmail.com](mailto:MailPonja@gmail.com)

If any question, please contact [MailPonja@gmail.com](mailto:MailPonja@gmail.com)

Reiko Tomii (Ponja), Project Director  
Hilary Chassé (AAA-A), Project Manager