



## PRESS RELEASE



THE SUMIDA HOKUSAI MUSEUM

2-7-2 Kamezawa, Sumida-ku, Tokyo, 130-0014

<https://hokusai-museum.jp>

September 15, 2022

# Hokusai's Book World

## An Unknown Domain of Woodblock Printed Books

September 21 - November 27, 2022



### Welcome to the world of woodblock printed books!

The Sumida Hokusai Museum in Tokyo will hold a special exhibition. The word *ukiyo-e* probably calls to mind, in most cases, single-sheet prints, as in the *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*. Their origin lay, however, in woodblocks carved with text and illustrations, then printed and bound as woodblock-printed books. Prints that were only pictures then developed from those books as an independent art form. Hokusai himself produced the illustrations for many of those woodblock-printed books. This exhibition focuses on those books and explores their fascination in four sections.

浮世絵ときくと、「富嶽三十六景」のような一枚摺の版画を思い浮かべることが多いと思いますが、その起源は板木に文字や挿絵を彫って摺ったものを本に仕立てた板本で、後に絵のみが独立したともいわれます。北斎は板本も数多く刊行しています。本展では、このような板本に注目し、その魅力をお伝えします。

### Hokusai's Book World - An Unknown Domain of Woodblock Printed Books

**Term:** September 21 - November 27, 2022

First-term: September 21- October 23

Second-term: October 25 - November 27

**Closed:** Every Monday or the following day if it is a national holiday.

\* Open: Mon/holiday, Oct 10

\* Close: Tue, Oct 11

**Hours:** 9:30-17:30 (last admission 17:00)

**Website:** <https://hokusai-museum.jp/BookWorldEN/>

**Organizers:** Sumida City, The Sumida Hokusai Museum

**For more information and images**

**Media Contact:** Museum Public relation, Yumiko Hayashi

**E-Mail :** [hayashi-yumiko@hokusai-museum.jp](mailto:hayashi-yumiko@hokusai-museum.jp)



## ► Exhibition Overview

Hokusai not only created single-sheet polychrome prints but also produced pictures for woodblock-printed books. The many books by Hokusai they were published included those in which he illustrated a story as well as his drawing manuals, with collections of his own drawings.

Looking at these books, the drawing styles and other techniques that Hokusai and his students devised for these books capture our attention. Moreover, because these books were hand made, even books with the same title differed, depending on the printing, to dive deeper into the world of the woodblock-printed book.

北斎は一枚摺の錦絵の他に、板本にも絵を描いています。物語の挿絵であつたり、自らの絵を集めた絵手本であつたりとたくさんの板本を出版しています。板本をみていると、北斎や弟子が板本のために工夫した絵画表現などが目にとまります。また板本は手作りのため全く同じものではなく、板本の世界の奥深さをご覧くださいことができます。

### Pick Up ► Illustrated drawing manuals



Katsushika Hokusai, *Sketches by Hokusai*, Vol. 8, The Sumida Hokusai Museum (All term)

*Sketches by Hokusai*, the series of illustrated books in which Hokusai depicts almost everything in the world, naturally includes sketches of Edo-period people reading woodblock-printed books. Then and now, relaxing and getting lost in a book is a delight.

北斎があらゆるものを描いた絵手本『北斎漫画』に、江戸時代の板本を読む人々が描かれています。くつろぎながら板本を読みふけて楽しむ様子は今と変わりません。

### Pick Up ► This book is extremely rare.



Katsushika Hokusai, *Sandara Gasumi*, The Sumida Hokusai Museum (1st term)

Most woodblock-printed books were produced in black and white, printed in black *sumi* ink, but some were printed in color, like polychrome, *nishiki-e*, prints. Given the format of the book, we even have examples that have been handed down with their beautiful colors scarcely faded. This book is one of the lavish volumes of satirical *kyōka* poems published around the end of the eighteenth century (Kansei and Kyōwa eras, 1789-1804). All the illustrations are two-page spreads in this album-bound book. This book is extremely

rare, with only a few copies extant, and is being displayed by our museum for the first time.

板本には墨摺の本が多いですが、錦絵のような多色摺の本もあります。本の形のため閉じられて保存されてきたことで、褪色が少なく非常にきれいな色のまま伝えられている板本もあります。寛政から享和（1789-1804）の頃には豪華な狂歌本が盛んに出版されており、本書もそのひとつです。画帖仕立てで見開き画面全体に描かれています。本書は遺存数も数点しか知られていない希少な板本で、当館初公開です。



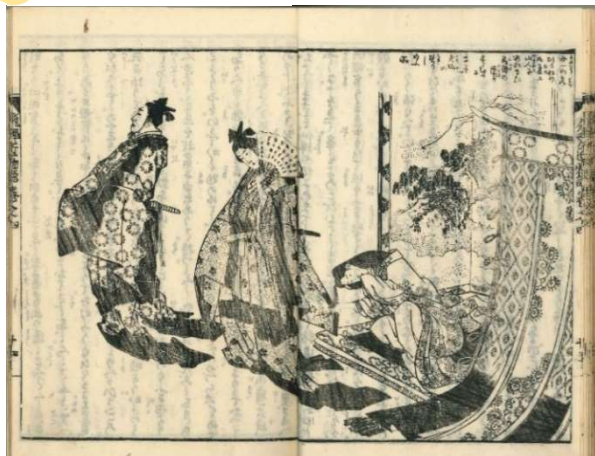
## Pick Up ▶ In the later printing, dream or reality?

### The first printing



Katsushika Hokusai,  
*Tale of the Craftsman from Hida, Vol. 2,*  
The Sumida Hokusai Museum (All term)

### The later printing



Katsushika Hokusai,  
*Newly Published Tale of the Craftsman from Hida, Vol. 4,*  
The Sumida Hokusai Museum (All term)

The first printing, the husbands in her dream are shown against a deep black background, contrasting with the princess in the real world. In the later printing, the printing with deep black ink has been eliminated, so that we cannot tell where the dividing line between dream and reality is.

初摺では、夢の中の将来の夫たちの背景を濃墨にし、寝ている現実の姫君と対比させています。後摺では濃墨が省かれ、夢と現実の境目がわからなくなっています。

## Pick Up ▶ Wrapper (*Fukuro*)



*Fukuro*: A piece of paper, joined at the sides but open at the top and bottom to form a tube. It was the wrapper in which a book was inserted when it went on sale. Some beautiful examples were also illustrated. Because the wrapper would be separated from the book, however, few survive, and extant examples are invaluable.

袋…上下の開いた筒状の紙でできた上包み。板本は売り出しの時にこれに包まれて売られました。本自体と別々になっているので、遺存する例は多くなく貴重です。

Katsushika Hokusai, *Wrapper for Sketches by Hokusai, Vol. 10,* The Sumida Hokusai Museum (All term)

## Pick Up ▶ Books like a picture scroll



Katsushika Hokusai, *Picture Book of the Sumida River—Both banks at a Glance, Vol. 1,* The Sumida Hokusai Museum (2nd term)

What is remarkable is that the pictures on each of the pages connect, as in a picture scroll. In this exhibition, we display pages from three copies of the first volume, lining them up to show the flow of the images.

特徴的なのは各ページの図柄がつながっていて絵巻物のようになっている点です。本展では同じ「上」冊を3冊並べて、つなげて展示します。

## ► Katsushika Hokusai



Keisai Eisen, *Hokusai portrait*,  
National Diet Library

Japanese *Ukiyo-e* artist Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849) was born in Sumida, Tokyo. It is said that Hokusai moved more than 90 times during his 90-year life, spending most of his lifetime in Sumida, and left many works depicting the scenery of Sumida, including Ryogoku Bridge, Mimeguri Shrine, and Ushijima Shrine. He vividly captured life in the Edo Period and is best known for the series “*Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*” which includes representative Japan’s most iconic artwork “*Under the Wave off Kanagawa*”, known internationally as *The Great wave*. His fascinating life and varied works spanning more than 70 years are more highly regarded today than ever, 160 years after his death. Today, he and his works are in the limelight as one of the most acclaimed artists in the world.

## ► Museum information



We are the Growing Museum,  
to Sending Out Information on Hokusai to the Local Community and the World

**Open :** 9:30-17:30 (Last admission 17:00)

**Close :** Every Monday

The following day if it is a national holiday.  
New year holiday.

**Address :** 2-7-2 Kamezawa, Sumida-ku, Tokyo, 130-0014

**Tel :** 03-6658-8936

**Web site:** <https://hokusai-museum.jp/>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/HokusaiMuseum>

**FB:** <https://www.facebook.com/THE.SUMIDA.HOKUSAI.MUSEUM/>

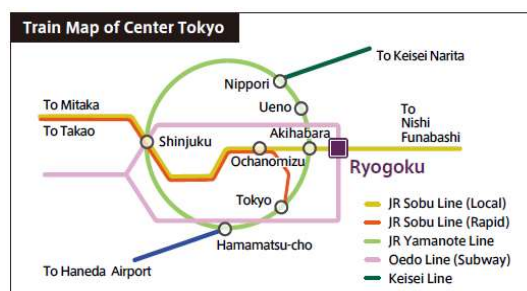
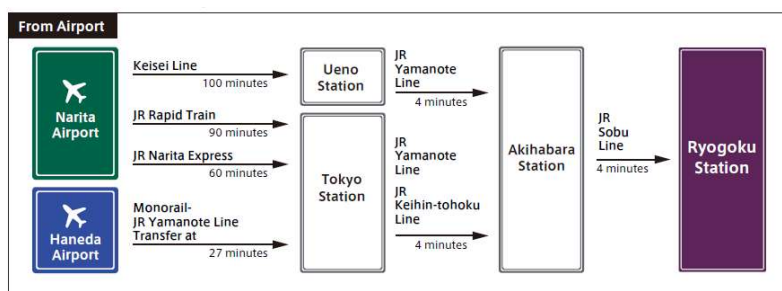


### ◆Access

\*5-minute walk from the Toei Oedo Line Ryogoku Station A3 exit

\*9-minute walk from JR Sobu Line Ryogoku Station East exit

\*5-minute by Sumida Loop Bus from the JR Sobu Line Kinshicho Station North exit



# Requests of visitors for cooperation on COVID-19 infection Prevention

## Visitor Guidelines : Health and Safety during your visit for keeping us all safe

Please refrain from visiting if you have a cough, sore throat, fever, fatigue, or if you have symptoms of COVID-19, have been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 14 days, or have been in close contact with someone infected with or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 within the past 14 days.


All visitors are required to...

1. Please take your temperature before entering the building. Temperature checks are carried out at each entrance.
2. Please wearing a face covering or mask.
3. Please disinfect your hands and fingers. We're providing hand-sanitizing stations for visitors at each entrance.
4. Please refrain from talking in the exhibition room.
5. Please do not touch the display case in the exhibition room.
6. Please disinfect your hands and fingers, before and after viewing touch by hand the touch screen panel.
7. The passengers in the elevator are limited to 3 people. However, families and caregivers can use it together.

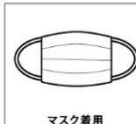
## Our efforts to prevent COVID-19

1. We're limiting the number of people in our museums, galleries, restrooms, elevators to allow for safe social distancing.
2. We're providing hand-sanitizing stations for visitors throughout our facilities and conducting more frequent and enhanced cleaning.
3. The space used by customers has already been disinfected. Handrails, elevator buttons, toilet-handle, and tap, are disinfected several times a day.
4. We're requiring that visitors always wear face coverings. Our staff at the museum who meet customers, wear masks.
5. We have installed a virus splash prevention panel at the reception/museum shop.
6. To keep a safe and good environment in the building, we may restrict admission, and the staff speaks to the visitor to call attention.
7. We do not accept new reservations for group viewing.


**お客様へご協力のお願い**  
Notice: About infection prevention measures of COVID-19  
Request for cooperation




入館時の検温  
Temperature measurement



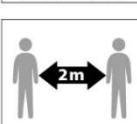
マスク着用  
Wearing a mask




こまめに手洗い  
Hand wash frequently



手の消毒  
Disinfecting fingers



人と離れる  
Keep a distance



さわらないでください  
Don't touch

**エレベーターご利用の際のお願い**  
Requests when using the elevator

新型コロナウイルス感染拡大防止の観点から当面の間、  
エレベーターの定員を3名に制限しております。  
The elevator is limited to 3 people.



但し、ご家族や介護者の方は、ご一緒にご利用いただけます。  
However, families and caregivers can use it together.

ご理解・ご協力のほどよろしくお願い申し上げます。すみだ北斎美術館  
We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.  
The Sumida Hokusai Museum

**展示室内でのお願い**  
Request in the Exhibition room  
About infection prevention measures of COVID-19

他のお客様と距離を空けて  
ご鑑賞ください  
Please keep a distance 2m



展示室内での会話は  
お控えください  
Please refrain from talking



展示室内の人数が密とならないよう  
入場制限を行います  
Admission restrictions



ご理解・ご協力のほどよろしくお願い申し上げます。すみだ北斎美術館  
We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.  
The Sumida Hokusai Museum

\*Please check the Sumida Hokusai Museum official website for details before visiting.