

March 27, 2023

Keio University

Artists in Rivalry: Extraordinary Designs by Hokusai and Kuniyoshi Exhibition at Keio Museum Commons (May 15 – July 15)

Keio University is organizing an exhibition showcasing its *Seiichirō Takahashi Ukiyo-e Collection*. This is the first time these prints will be on display in 14 years. One major aspect of this collection's appeal is that, among its impressive array of artistic pieces, it highlights the works of KATSUSHIKA Hokusai and UTAGAWA Kuniyoshi, two incredible *ukiyo-e* artists from the end of the Edo period (1603–1867) who remain popular to this day. For this exhibition, Keio has procured loans of sketches and unpublished works from both artists and their pupils which highlight their growing stylistic nuances. Attendees can bask in the material elegance of Edo-period *ukiyo-e*, as the dynamic brushstrokes from the artists' wholehearted personal sketches are displayed alongside the refined and vivid prints that have come to be regarded as their masterpieces.

1. Overview

Date: Monday, May 15–Saturday, July 15, 2023

Some works will be replaced with other pieces during exhibition period.

1st half: 5/15 (Mon)–6/13 (Tue), 2nd half: 6/15 (Thu)–7/15 (Sat)

*Closed on Saturdays and Sundays

**Special opening: 5/20, 6/17, 7/15 (all Saturdays); Closed on: 5/22 (Mon), 6/14 (Wed), 7/3 (Mon)

Venue: Keio Museum Commons, East Annex, Keio University Mita Campus

Opening Times: 11:00 – 18:00

Admission: Free, open to the public

Please visit the KeMCo website for more information on the exhibition and related programs:

<https://kemco.keio.ac.jp/en/>

2. About the Exhibition

Hokusai and Kuniyoshi: two 19th century *ukiyo-e* artists from Edo whose names often appear alongside each other in textbooks, but who also shared a very real connection.

Hokusai, who became an independent artist after studying at the Katsukawa school that KATSUKAWA Shunshō began, branched out and absorbed various styles, eventually creating his own large artistic association known as the Katsushika School (Hokusai School). Meanwhile, Kuniyoshi was a second-generation student taught in the style of UTAGAWA Toyoharu, a contemporary rival of Hokusai's teacher, Shunshō. Both Utagawa and Hiroshige, as members of this same school of artists, were some of Hokusai's favorite competitors. However, according to stories from the time, Kuniyoshi approached Hokusai of his own accord out of respect for him as an elder artist but Hokusai, for his part, refused any sort of intimate association due to the former's artistic lineage.

This exhibition of prints from Keio's *Seiichirō Takahashi Ukiyo-e Collection* hopes to provide a space for visitors to once again be awed by the eccentricities and expressions that set Hokusai and Kuniyoshi apart from their peers

and encapsulated their expertise as *ukiyo-e* masters. In addition, this exhibition will showcase unpublished works and never-before-seen sketches that highlight the dynamic brushwork from these two artists and their pupils.

With so many incredible pieces on display, we anticipate that visitors will find it hard to mask their excitement as they admire the works of these immensely skilled artists. We invite you to stop by, take your time, and enjoy the show!

3. Exhibition Highlights

1. KATSUSHIKA Hokusai et al. (Illustration), *Spring Scene of Enoshima, Branches of the Willow Tree (Yanagi no ito)*, Kansei 9 (1797)
2. KATSUSHIKA Hokusai (Illustration), *Thirty-Six Views of Mt. Fuji: A Clear Breezy Morning*, c. Tenpo 1–5 (1830–34), Large format multi-color woodblock print
3. UTAGAWA Kuniyoshi (Illustration), *Earth Spider Conjuring up Demons to Torment Minamoto Raiko*, c. Tenpo14 (1843), Large format multi-color woodblock prints (Triptych)
4. UTAGAWA Kuniyoshi (Illustration), *The Lonely House at Adachigahara*, Ansei 3 (1856), Large format multi-color woodblock prints (Diptych)
5. KATSUSHIKA Hokusai, Fan Painting of *Chrysanthemums and Small Eggplants*, Color on paper
6. *Sketches of Chinese Historical Figures*, from Preparatory Drawings by Artists of the KATSUSHIKA Hokusai School, Ink on paper
7. *Chinese Lanterns: Jumping from the Boat to Boat*, from Preparatory Drawings by Artists of the UTAGAWA Kuniyoshi School, Ink on paper



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1-4. Seiichiro Takahashi Ukiyo-e Collection at Keio University

5-7. Private collection

*5, 6, 7: On display for whole exhibition / 1,3: 1st half only / 2, 4: 2nd half only

4. Related Programs

Gallery Talks: Gallery talks will be given by museum staff

Admission: Free. Everyone is welcome to attend (advance reservations required)

Venue: Keio Museum Commons (East Annex, Mita Campus)

Date & Time: 29 May (Mon), 14:00 – 14:30,
9 June (Fri), 17:00 – 17:30,
19 June (Mon), 17:00 – 17:30,
7 July (Fri), 14:00 – 14:30

Various programs related to the exhibition are being planned. For more information, check the KeMCo website.

*Please visit the KeMCo website for more information on this and other KeMCo programs:

<https://kemco.keio.ac.jp/en/>

5. Collaborative Project

Introduction to Art Archive XXV: Tanabe Collection of Kabuki Magazine, *Yakusha*

Date: Monday 22 May – Friday 28 July, 2023

Venue: Keio University Art Center

6. Venue and Access

Venue: Keio Museum Commons (Keio University Mita Campus East Annex)

Address: 2-15-45 Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8345

East Annex, Keio University Mita Campus

- Access:**
- Tamachi Station (JR Yamanote Line/Keihin Tohoku Line) 8 minutes on foot
 - Mita Station (Toei Subway Asakusa Line/Mita Line) 7 minutes on foot
 - Akabanebashi Station (Toei Subway Oedo Line) 8 minutes on foot



Keio Museum Commons
(East Annex, Mita Campus)

7. Organizers

Keio Museum Commons and the Mita Media Center (Keio University Library)

※Please direct any requests or inquiries to the contact information provided below.

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