

May 7, 2025  
Keio University

**KeMCo Exhibition**  
**Elegance and Enigma:**  
**Utamaro and Sharaku’s Sensational *Ukiyo-e* Portraits**  
**(June 3–August 6)**

**Step into the Golden Age of *Ukiyo-e* with 100 Exquisite Prints—Featuring Masterworks by Utamaro and Sharaku, Produced by the Legendary Publisher TSUTAYA Jūzaburō**

Keio Museum Commons will hold an exhibition of the *Seiichirō Takahashi Ukiyo-e Collection*, which was collected by the economist and former acting president of Keio University. In this second showing of the collection, we focus on two of the most important *ukiyo-e* artists of the late Edo period, KITAGAWA Utamaro and TŌSHŪSAI Sharaku. The exhibition showcases the *ukiyo-e* works of Utamaro, who was a master of *bijin-ga* (portraits of beautiful women), and Sharaku, who was renowned for his *yakusha-e* (portraits of actors), with related materials by their publisher, TSUTAYA Jūzaburō. The exhibition will also feature works by other artists active during the same period. We invite visitors to enjoy the artistic “contest” between elegance and enigma.

### 1. Overview

**Title:** Elegance and Enigma: Utamaro and Sharaku’s Sensational *Ukiyo-e* Portraits

**Date:** June 3 (Tue.)–August 6 (Wed.) 2025 \*Closed on weekends and public holidays

Weekend openings: June 21 (Sat.), July 12 (Sat.), August 2 (Sat.)

Temporary closures: June 23 (Mon.), July 3 (Thu.), July 4 (Fri.)

Some works will be replaced during the exhibition period:

1st Half: June 3 (Tue.)–July 2 (Wed.)

2nd Half: July 7 (Mon)–August 6 (Wed.)

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

**Open:** 11:00–18:00

**Admission:** Free

\*Please check the website for the latest information: <https://kemco.keio.ac.jp/en/all-post/20250603-en/>

### 2. Concept

This special exhibition showcases the works of two renowned *ukiyo-e* artists, KITAGAWA Utamaro and TŌSHŪSAI Sharaku, through Keio University’s *Seiichirō Takahashi Ukiyo-e Collection*. Utamaro’s exquisite portraits of women invite us to dream of the fleeting elegance of Edo-period beauties. Meanwhile, Sharaku’s strikingly bold and unconventional actor prints challenge us to decipher the hidden emotions of the enigmatic artist himself. The exhibition also features works by their contemporaries and highlights the role of the influential publisher TSUTAYA Jūzaburō. Step into this space and experience the world of Edo-period *ukiyo-e* in all its splendor.

### 3. Main Exhibits

1. KITAGAWA Utamaro (Illustration), *Women Taking a Night's Lodging (Triptick)*, Late Edo Period, Large format multi-colour woodblock print. (1st half only)
2. KITAGAWA Utamaro (Illustration), *The Beauty Takashima Ohisa*, Late Edo Period, Large format multi-colour woodblock print. (1st half only)
3. TŌSHŪSAI Sharaku (Illustration), *The Actor Ichikawa Ebizō as Takemura Sadanoshin*, 1794 (Kansei 6), Large format multi-colour woodblock print. (2nd half only)
4. TŌSHŪSAI Sharaku (Illustration), *The Actor Ichikawa Komazō III as the Villain Shiga Daishichi*, 1794 (Kansei 6), Large format multi-colour woodblock print. (1st half only)
5. TŌSHŪSAI Sharaku (Illustration), *Actor Matsumoto Yonesaburō as Shinobu, Who is Disguised as Kewaizaka Shōshō*, 1794 (Kansei 6), Large format multi-colour woodblock print. (2nd half only)

\*1, 2, 3: Keio University Collection

\*4, 5: Private Collection



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#### **4. Related Programming**

##### **Workshops**

KeMCo has put together multiple accompanying events for this exhibition. For more information, please check the KeMCo website: <https://kemco.keio.ac.jp/en/all-post/20250603-en/>

**Title:** Experience Handling *Ukiyo-e*! Object-Based Learning Workshop (provisional title)

**Date:** August 1 (Fri.), Session 1: 10:30–12:00/Session 2: 13:00–14:30

**Title:** Workshop for International Students (provisional title)

**Date & Time:** July 15 (Tue.), 14:00–16:30

##### **Gallery Talks**

Gallery talks will be given by the curatorial staff.

The event is open to the general public. There is no fee to attend, but a reservation is required.

<https://kemco.keio.ac.jp/en/all-post/20250603-en/>

**Dates:** June 25 (Wed.), July 1 (Tue.), July 18 (Fri.), August 4 (Mon.), 12:00–12:45

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

#### **5. Concurrent Exhibition**

**Title:** *point of view—Kazuo Okazaki*

**Date:** 3rd part runs June 3 (Tue.)–August 6 (Wed.)

**Venue:** 2F Stair Landing, Keio Museum Commons (Mita Campus East Annex)

“point of view” refers to the objects displayed on the landing and the expansive KeMCo atrium space that encompasses them. This small project is a new attempt to highlight the university’s collection and academic resources in a way that differs from regular exhibitions while also showcasing the artworks of contemporary artist Kazuo Okazaki for 2025.

## **6. Venue and Access**

**Venue:** Keio Museum Commons (KeMCo)

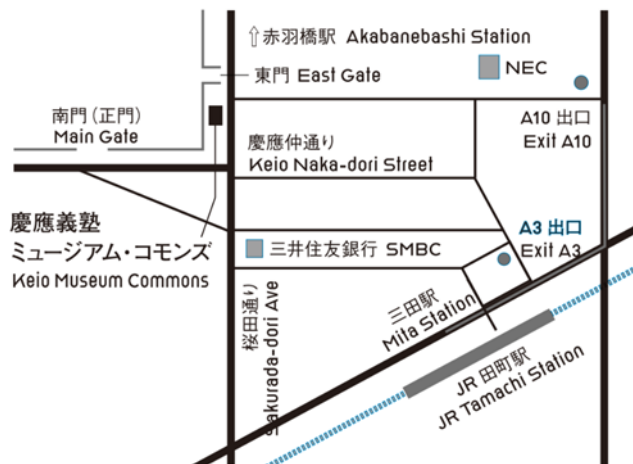
**Address:** 2-15-45 Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8345

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



## **7. Organizer**

Organized by Keio Museum Commons and the Mita Media Center (Keio University Library).  
Cooperated by MAYUYAMA & CO., LTD.

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

### **Inquiries about press release:**

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