Tsukioka Yoshitoshi: Japanese Prints from the Taubman Museum of Art's Permanent Collection

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi, *The adolescent Yoshitsune fights Benkei on Gojo Bridge*, block created 1881; print ca. 1900, Polychrome woodblock print, Gift of Arthur M. Squires, 2007.016

TRAVELING EXHIBITION PROSPECTUS
Tsukioka Yoshitoshi: Japanese Prints from the Taubman Museum of Art's Permanent Collection

Composed of twenty-four woodcuts by renowned Japanese artist Tsukioka Yoshitoshi from the Taubman Museum of Art’s permanent collection, this exhibition presents the artist’s most representative and well-known series: New Forms of Thirty-Six Ghosts, One Hundred Aspects of the Moon, A Mirror of Strange Tales from China and Japan and Twenty-Eight Famous Murders with Verse.

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi (Japanese, 1839-1892) is widely recognized as the last master of Ukiyo-e, a genre of woodblock prints and paintings that flourished in Japan from the 17th through 19th centuries. When he was a teen, he was apprenticed to Utagawa Kuniyoshi (1797-1861), one of the great masters of Japanese Edo-period woodblock prints. Yoshitoshi lived most of his adult life in the early years of the Meiji period (1868-1912), a time when Japan “opened up to the West” and began to embrace western culture’s modernity and mass production. Witnessing the new cultural influx, Yoshitoshi realized the loss of Japanese values and almost singlehandedly strove to preserve traditional art forms as evidenced in his artwork.

The exhibition highlights traditional East Asian folklore as well as the artist’s superb skill and imagination. All of the polychrome woodblock prints on view are based on Chinese and Japanese folktales and history, and Kabuki, a stylized classical dance dramatization. Known for his creativity in depicting these subjects, Yoshitoshi presented the pinnacle moment of action in his prints. Ukiyo-e prints were usually a collaboration between the artist, several skilled block carvers, printers, and publishers to complete the work. Not only do these prints feature Yoshitoshi’s name and the title but frequently acknowledge skilled individuals that helped develop the finished print.

This exhibition was a first-time feature at the Taubman Museum of Art of works by Tsukioka Yoshitoshi and also emphasizes the museum’s renowned holdings of Japanese prints. Though several donors have contributed Japanese prints to our permanent collection, which includes works done throughout the 19th century into the mid-20th century.

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi: Japanese Prints from the Taubman Museum of Art’s Permanent Collection is organized by the Taubman Museum of Art and curated by Amy G. Moorefield, Deputy Director of Exhibitions and Collections with special assistance from Mary LaGue, Registrar and Tianchu Wu, Curatorial Intern.
Symbols and Writing on Japanese Ukiyo-e Woodblock Prints

Japanese woodblock prints of the Ukiyo-e style were typically executed by more than one person. Not only do the prints feature the title and artist, but frequently acknowledge skilled block carvers, printers and publishers that helped develop the finished print. In this diagram you can see how credits attributed to certain individuals are mapped out.

1. Scene's title and description:
   Furutaya Hachirombei slaughters his pet “Cat” (a euphemism for courtesan).

2. Series title:
   Twenty-Eight Famous Murders with Verse

3. Subtitle:
   Furutaya Hachirombei

4. Publisher:
   Sano-ya Tomigorō (Kinseido). Publishers usually used one or two business names, the ya-gō and do-gō, named for the differing suffixes applied to the business name. Yo means “shop” and do means “firm”, so in meaning they are roughly the same.

5. Block carvers:
   Hirokō Shimizu Ryūzō
   All carver's seals start with the character hori ( 彫 ) or ( 刀 ) meaning “carver” or “knife”. Most reference books include this when they list the carver's name.

6. Signed (Ikkaisai):
   Yoshiudoki hitsu (hitosu meaning painted or written by)
Traveling Exhibition Specifics

**Includes:** 24 Objects

**Space Requirements:** 120 linear wall ft. Gallery size 900 square feet depending on the layout used
*Due to fragility of artworks, borrower must limit lighting to no more than 5 footcandles

**Rental Fee:** $8,000

**Shipping Costs:** Exhibiting venue pays pro-rated one-way shipping costs

**Insurance:** To be carried by venue

**Courier Expenses:** Exhibiting venue pays courier transportation, lodging and per diem

**Supporting materials:** Includes exhibition didactic and gallery guides, electronic files

**Availability:** Eight week rental, January 2017 – January 2021
Illustrated Checklist
Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
# 58: Minamato no Yorimasa, 1888
Woodcut
13 3/4 x 9 5/8 in. (34.9 x 24.4 cm)
Gift of Sears and Roebuck Company
1965.002

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
Moon at Horin Temple, 1886-1890
Woodblock print
10 x 14 3/8 in. (25.4 x 36.6 cm)
The Peggy Macdowell Thomas Japanese Print Collection
1996.061

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
Heron Maiden, 1898
Woodblock print
10 x 14 3/8 in. (25.4 x 36.6 cm)
The Peggy Macdowell Thomas Japanese Print Collection
1996.062

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
Furuteya Hachirobei, 1867
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.011

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
Study for Furuteya Hachirobei, ca. 1867
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.012

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
The adolescent Yoshitsune fights Benkei on Gojo Bridge, block created 1881; print ca. 1900
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.016

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
#87, Moon of Kintoki's Mountain [Kintokiya no tsuki], 10th month, 1890
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.017
Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
Tairo no Koremochi vanquishes the demon maiden of Mount Tokahushi, 1885
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.018

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
Sorori Shinzaemon, 1880
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.019

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
Toki Daishiro, 1880
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.020

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
Wife of the Emporer Chou, 1880
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.021

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
Kobayakawa Takakage, 1880
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.022

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
Urabe Suetake, 1880
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.023

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
Towara Tota Hidesato, 1880
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.024

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
Ban Dan'yemon Naoyuki, 1880
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.025

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
Chinzei Hachino Tametomo, 1880
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires, 2007.026
Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
Musashibo Benkei, 1880
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.027

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
A Chinese general, 1880
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.028

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
#26, Cassia-tree moon [Tsuki no katsura], 3rd month, 1886
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.029

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
#31, Mount Ji Ming Moon [Keimeizan no tsuki], 6th month, 1886
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.030

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
#13, The Cry of the Fox [Konkai], 1st month, 1886
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.031

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
#63, the moon of the moor [Harano no tsuki], 5th month, 1888
Polychrome woodblock print
oban tate-e: 14 1/2 x 9 3/4 in. (36.8 x 24.8 cm)
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.032

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
#97, The moon and the abandoned old woman, 6th month, 1891
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.033

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi
#88, A country couple enjoys the moonlight with their infant son, 10th month, 1890
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Arthur M. Squires
2007.034
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TRAVELING EXHIBITION PROSPECTUS

For more information, please contact:

Kimberly C. Piland, Exhibition Coordinator
kpiland@taubmanmuseum.org
540.204.4126

Taubman Museum of Art
110 Salem Ave, SE, Roanoke, VA 24011
540.342.5760 | www.taubmanmuseum.org