

***Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Japanese Print Collection***, June 10, 2014-May 3, 2015

A lifelong supporter of the arts, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller (1874–1948), a daughter of Rhode Island senator Nelson W. Aldrich and the wife of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., assembled a remarkable collection of Japanese woodblock prints. While Mrs. Rockefeller's interest in art was not limited to works from Japan, one of her early passions was for bird-and-flower prints, or *kachōga*. Her collection also included *surimono*, or "printed things," which were published privately and distributed among small groups, especially as New Year greetings. *Surimono* are known for extravagant techniques such as embossing and an abundant use of metallic pigments. In all, Mrs. Rockefeller donated more than 700 Japanese prints to the RISD Museum.

The works in this gallery, drawn from a 1934 exhibition commemorating Mrs. Rockefeller's gift, were made by specialists working together in a collaborative process. After the artist drew the design, carvers cut the outline, or key block, in cherrywood, and then made separate blocks for each color in the print. Printers inked the blocks and printed them in succession, carefully aligning the registration. Mass produced in Edo, or Tokyo, in the 18th and 19th centuries, woodblock prints were acquired by a rising middle class and purchased as souvenirs by travelers.

In 1952, architect Philip Johnson was commissioned by Mrs. Rockefeller's sons, Nelson and David, and her sister, Lucy Truman Aldrich, to design a room for the continuous exhibition of her Japanese prints at the RISD Museum. Originally located on the east side of this floor, the room has been recreated here to Johnson's specifications.

## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Utagawa Hiroshige  
Japanese, 1797-1858  
*Japanese White-eye and Persimmons (Kaki ni mejiro)*, 1830s  
Color woodblock print  
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.218



# RISD MUSEUM

Utagawa Hiroshige

Japanese, 1797-1858

Possibly Kawaguchiya Shozo, publisher

Japanese

*Horned Owl, Pine, and Crescent Moon (Mikazuki shōjō no mimizuku)*, 1830s

Color woodblock print

Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.220



Utagawa Hiroshige

Japanese, 1797-1858

Kawaguchiya Shozo, publisher

Japanese

*Wild Geese and Moon (Tsuki ni gan)*, 1830s

Color woodblock print

Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.227.2



Utagawa Hiroshige

Japanese, 1797-1858

Kawaguchiya Shozo, publisher

Japanese

*Cricket and Morning Glories (Asagao ni kōrogi)*, 1830s

Color woodblock print

Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.234



# RISD MUSEUM

Utagawa Hiroshige  
Japanese, 1797-1858  
*Kingfisher and hibiscus (Busobe ni kawasemi)*, 1830s  
Color woodblock fan print  
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.306



Yashima Gakutei  
Japanese, ca. 1786-1868  
*Caged Bird and Plum Branch (Ume ni torikago)*, Two sheets for the Bizen Circle 1820s  
Polychrome wood block print with embossing and metallic highlights  
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.351



Kubo Shunman  
Japanese, 1757-1820  
previous attribution Hokusai  
Japanese, fl. 1789-1818  
*Pheasants and heath roses (Boke ni kiji)*, ca. 1810  
Color woodblock print with metallic pigments and embossing  
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.352



Utagawa Hiroshige  
Japanese, 1797-1858  
*Flying Cranes (Hikaku)*, 1860s  
Color woodblock print  
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.412



# RISD MUSEUM

Utagawa Hiroshige  
Japanese, 1797-1858  
Sanoya Kihei, publisher  
Japanese  
*Morning Glories (Asagao)*, 1854.2  
Color woodblock fan print  
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.442



Kawanabe Kyōsai  
Japanese, 1831-1889  
*White Heron in the Rain* (Uchu sagi), 1880s  
Color woodblock print  
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.464



Kawanabe Kyōsai  
Japanese, 1831-1889  
Japanese  
*Crow on Snow-covered Plum Branch*, 1870s-1880s  
Color woodblock print  
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.473



# RISD MUSEUM

Katsushika Hokusai  
Japanese, 1760-1849  
Moriya Jihei, publisher  
Japanese

*Cranes on Snow-covered Pine Branch (Yukimatsu ni tsuru)*, late 1820s  
Color woodblock print  
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.496



Katsushika Hokusai  
Japanese, 1760-1849  
Moriya Jihei, publisher  
Japanese

*Hawk and Cherry Blossoms (Kaido ni taka)*, From a set of five untitled prints of animalsca. 1834  
Color woodblock print  
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.498





# RISD MUSEUM

Keisai Eisen  
Japanese, 1790-1848  
Takenouchi Magohachi, publisher  
Japanese, late 18th century-mid 19th century  
*Peonies*, 1830s  
Color woodblock print  
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.509



Isoda Koryūsai  
Japanese, active ca. 1764-1788  
*Mount Fuji, falcon and aubergines (Fuji to taka to nasu)*, ca. 1775  
Color woodblock print  
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.542



Kitagawa Utamaro  
Japanese, 1754-1806  
*Hawk on Plum Branch*, 1790s  
Color woodblock print with mica  
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.583



# RISD MUSEUM

Utagawa Hiroshige

Japanese, 1797-1858

*Hollyhocks (Tachiaoi)*, 1843-1847

Color woodblock print

Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.204

