

***Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Japanese Print Collection*, May 8, 2015–November 8, 2015**

Renowned for his sensitive and faithful renderings of the Japanese landscape, Utagawa Hiroshige is perhaps best known for his series *The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido* (1833–1834), which was wildly successful in Japan and in Europe. Its popularity inspired the artist to create more than 20 other series depicting activity along the Tokaido Road. As the main travel and transport artery, the Tokaido connected the military capital, Edo (Tokyo), with the imperial capital, Kyoto. The road had 53 post stations where travelers could rest and replenish supplies.

The paired prints in this exhibition show seven stations from the artist's first and last series depicting the Tokaido Road. The first, *The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido*, also known as the *Hoeido Tokaido* after the publishing house that printed the series, was completed in 1834. In 1855, Hiroshige completed the last set, *Pictures of Famous Places of the Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido*. This group is also referred to as the *Tate-e Tokaido*, or the *Vertical Tokaido*. The shifts in style between the first and last series are evident: in the *Hoeido Tokaido*, Hiroshige focuses on travelers and their interaction with the landscape, while in the *Tate-e Tokaido*, the artist presents majestic landscape views in which figures play a secondary role. These differences perhaps reflect the artist's changing perspective as he aged.

This exhibition is the result of a collaborative effort between Professor Elena Varshavskaya, senior lecturer in the History of Art and Visual Culture Department at RISD, and the students in her Fall 2014 course *Japanese Ukiyo-e Prints*.

Many of the prints in this exhibition were given to the Museum by Abby Aldrich Rockefeller (1874–1948), a daughter of Rhode Island senator Nelson W. Aldrich and the wife of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. A lifelong supporter of the arts, Mrs. Rockefeller assembled a remarkable collection of Japanese woodblock prints. In all, she donated more than 700 Japanese prints to the RISD Museum. Architect Philip Johnson was commissioned in 1952 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 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  
Kichizō Tsutaya, publisher  
Japanese  
*The Narrow Ivy Road, Mount Utsu, Okabe (Utsunoyama tsuta no hosomichi)*, from the series *Pictures of Famous Places of the Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido*, 1855  
Polychrome wood block print  
Gift of Mrs. Gustav Radeke 20.1252



Utagawa Hiroshige  
 Japanese, 1797-1858  
 Takenouchi Magohachi, publisher  
 Japanese, late 18th century-mid 19th century  
*Crowd at Nihon Bridge (Nihonbashi gyokuretsu furidashi)*, from the  
 series *The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido*, ca. 1833  
 Polychrome wood block print  
 Gift of Mrs. Gustav Radeke 20.1253



Utagawa Hiroshige  
 Japanese, 1797-1858  
 Kichizō Tsutaya, publisher  
 Japanese  
*Fuji Marsh and Ukishima Plain, Yoshiwara (Yoshiwara fuji no numa ukishima ga hara)*, from the series *Pictures of Famous Places of the Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido*, 1855  
 Polychrome wood block print  
 Gift of Mrs. Gustav Radeke 20.1289



Utagawa Hiroshige  
 Japanese, 1797-1858  
 Takenouchi Magohachi, publisher  
 Japanese, late 18th century-mid 19th century  
 Tsuruya Kiemon, publisher  
 Japanese, late 18th century-mid 19th century  
*Morning view, Nihon Bridge (Nihonbashi asa no kei)*, from the series  
*The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido*, ca. 1833  
 Polychrome wood block print  
 Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 41.080.1



# RISD MUSEUM

Takenouchi Magohachi, publisher  
 Japanese, late 18th century-mid 19th century  
 Utagawa Hiroshige  
 Japanese, 1797-1858  
*Mount Fuji in the Morning, Hara (Hara asa no fuji)*, from the series  
*The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido*, ca. 1833  
 Polychrome wood block print  
 Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 41.080.14



Utagawa Hiroshige  
 Japanese, 1797-1858  
 Takenouchi Magohachi, publisher  
 Japanese, late 18th century-mid 19th century  
*Fuji from the left, Yoshiwara (Yoshiwara hidari fuji)*, from the series  
*The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido*, ca. 1833  
 Polychrome wood block print  
 Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 41.080.15



Utagawa Hiroshige  
 Japanese, 1797-1858  
 Takenouchi Magohachi, publisher  
 Japanese, late 18th century-mid 19th century  
*Abe River, Fuchu (Fuchu abegawa)*, from the series *The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido*, ca. 1833  
 Polychrome wood block print  
 Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 41.080.20



Tsuruya Kiemon, publisher  
 Japanese, late 18th century-mid 19th century  
 Utagawa Hiroshige  
 Japanese, 1797-1858  
*Mount Utsu, Okabe (Okabe utsu no yama)*, from the series *The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido*, ca. 1833  
 Polychrome wood block print  
 Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 41.080.22



# RISD MUSEUM

Utagawa Hiroshige  
 Japanese, 1797-1858  
 Takenouchi Magohachi, publisher  
 Japanese, late 18th century-mid 19th century  
*Clearing weather after snow, Kameyama (Kameyama yukibare)*, from  
 the series *The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido*, ca. 1833  
 Polychrome wood block print  
 Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 41.080.47



Utagawa Hiroshige  
 Japanese, 1797-1858  
 Takenouchi Magohachi, publisher  
 Japanese, late 18th century-mid 19th century  
*Early Departure from the Inn for Daimyo, Seki (Seki honjin hayadachi)*,  
 from the series *The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido*, ca. 1833  
 Polychrome wood block print  
 Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 41.080.48



Utagawa Hiroshige  
 Japanese, 1797-1858  
 Kichizō Tsutaya, publisher  
 Japanese  
*Lightning and rain, Kameyama (Kameyama fuu raimei)*, from the  
 series *Pictures of Famous Places of the Fifty-Three Stations of the  
 Tokaido*, 1855  
 Polychrome wood block print  
 Gift of Marshall H. Gould 46.293.3





# RISD MUSEUM

Utagawa Hiroshige  
Japanese, 1797-1858

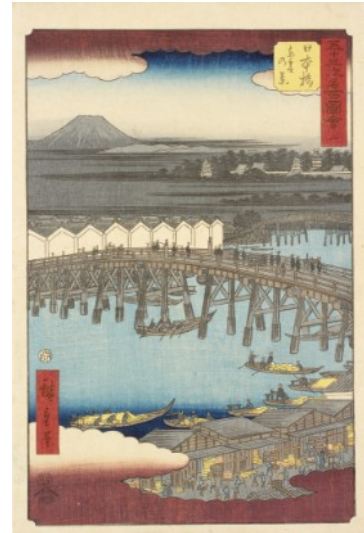
Kichizō Tsutaya, publisher

Japanese

*View with dawn clouds, Nihon Bridge, from the series Pictures of Famous Places of the Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido, 1855*

Polychrome wood block print

Gift of Marshall H. Gould 46.293.4



Utagawa Hiroshige

Japanese, 1797-1858

Kichizō Tsutaya, publisher

Japanese

*Mount Fuji and Mount Ashitaka in the distance, Hara, from the series Pictures of Famous Places of the Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido, 1855*

Polychrome wood block print

Gift of Marshall H. Gould 46.293.6



Utagawa Hiroshige

Japanese, 1797-1858

Kichizō Tsutaya, publisher

Japanese

*The Junction of the Pilgrim's Road [to Ise], Seki, from the series Pictures of the famous places of the fifty-three stations of the Tokaido, 1855*

Polychrome wood block print

Gift of Marshall H. Gould 46.293.9



# RISD MUSEUM

Utagawa Hiroshige

Japanese, 1797-1858

Kichizō Tsutaya, publisher

Japanese

*The Second Block of the Miroku Licensed Quarter by the Abe River, Fuchu*, from the series *Pictures of Famous Places of the Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido*, 1855

Polychrome wood block print

Gift of Marshall H. Gould 46.294.5

