

# RISD MUSEUM

## *The Art of the Book in Japan*, June 2, 2006-September 3, 2006

In the early 17th century, Japan entered into a 250-year period of peace and political stability with the establishment of the Tokugawa shogunate in Edo (modern-day Tokyo). The Edo period (1603-1867) was characterized by urbanization and social change on a vast scale, fostering a distinctive popular culture that had its roots in urban economic prosperity and the spread of literacy among the merchant class and "townspeople" (*chonin*). In this newly evolving milieu, woodblock printing became the medium for artistic expression. The subjects of books, which had previously encompassed Buddhist texts and volumes of classical Chinese and Japanese literature, expanded to include light fiction, guide and travel books, practical instruction manuals, pattern books, and erotica. Illustrations were also added to printed books to increase the reader's interest. Eventually, the relationship of text and image was modified, sometimes to the point where books consisted only of images, perhaps with a prefatory text.

This exhibition includes a variety of printed materials, both in book form and as single sheets from books. Early 18th-century prints illustrate how text and image might be combined, as in Shunsho's depiction of episode two of the Tales of Ise on this wall. By contrast, in the Harunobu pages to the left of that print, poetic texts have been incorporated into the overall design of the page/sheet. Other prints are drawn from artists' books (*gafu*) that transmit compositions associated with particular painters or schools of painting; from deluxe albums of prints; and from botanical works. The examples in the cases assume two different formats: the folding book (*orihon*) and the book with sewn binding (*fukurotoji*, or "thread-sewn bag binding"). Book publication was an integral part of the very significant evolution of woodblock printing in Edo-period Japan. This selection of works from the Museum's collection is only a small indication of the printing culture that thrived during this era and continues even today in contemporary Japan.

### CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Kitao Masayoshi, Japanese, 1764-1824

Keisai Eisen, Japanese, 1790-1848

Raijin Genki, Japanese

Tōshirō Katano, Japanese

*Sketches by Keisai: Vol. 2*, 1842

Polychrome woodblock printed books

Bequest of Isaac C. Bates 13.1287

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Japanese

Nishikawa Sukenobu, Japanese, 1671-1750

*The geisha Okura and Wakamurasaki, ca. 1730s*

Monochrome woodblock print

Gift of Mrs. Gustav Radeke 20.1076



Suzuki Harunobu, Japanese, 1724-1770

Endo Matsugoro, Japanese, 18th century

*Courtesan Fujinoto smoking by a heater (kotatsu) (Fujinoto), from the Illustrated Book of Collected Beauties from the Licensed Quarter (Ehon seiro bijin awase), 1770*

Polychrome wood block print

Gift of Mrs. Gustav Radeke 20.1079



Suzuki Harunobu, Japanese, 1724-1770

Endo Matsugoro, Japanese, 18th century

*Courtesan Utena of the Shinkanaya by a hibachi (Shinkanaya Utena), from the Illustrated Book of Collected Beauties from the Licensed Quarter (Ehon seiro bijin awase), 1770*

Polychrome wood block print

Gift of Mrs. Gustav Radeke 20.1081



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Suzuki Harunobu, Japanese, 1724-1770

Endo Matsugoro, Japanese, 18th century

*Courtesan Naniwae scratching her back with pipe (Naniwae)*, from the *Illustrated Book of Collected Beauties from the Licensed Quarter (Ehon seiro bijin awase)*, 1770

Polychrome wood block print

Gift of Mrs. Gustav Radeke 20.1082



Katsukawa Shunshō, Japanese, 1725-1792

*Ro (Seaweed)*, episode 2 from *Ise Monogatari (Ro)*, *Fashionable brocade pictures of Tales of Ise*, ca. 1772-1773

Polychrome wood block print

Gift of Mrs. Gustav Radeke 20.1105



Kawamura Kihō, Japanese, 1778-1852

Bunchodo, Japanese

*Kihō's Sketchbook (Kihō gafu)*, *Bird on a Flowering Plum Tree*, 1827

Woodcut illustrated book with mica-stencilled paper wrappers

Helen M. Danforth Acquisition Fund 2003.39.6



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Japanese

*Manual of styles*, 1870s

Color woodcut

Helen M. Danforth Acquisition Fund 2003.39.7



Sakai Hōitsu, Japanese, 1761-1829

Kamo Suetaka

Matsuzawa Rōsen, Japanese

*Ōson's Picture Album: A Book of Pictures by Priest Hōitsu of Universal Phenomena*, 1807

woodcut illustrated book with paper wrappers, sewn

Gift of the Estate of Mrs. Gustav Radeke 31.408

Nishimura Nantei, Japanese, 1775-1834

Inoue Jihei, Japanese

Bunchodo, Japanese

Hori Kisaburo, Japanese

*An album of drawings by Nantei, supplementary volume: A book of figure drawings*, 1823

Woodcut illustrated book with paper wrappers, sewn

Gift of the Estate of Mrs. Gustav Radeke 31.412

Nakamura Hōchū, Japanese, fl. 1790-1813

Kinkado of Edo, Japanese

Tampankan, Japanese

*Bush warbler and blossoming plum (Ume ni uguisu), Korin gafu (An album of pictures by Korin)*, late 1800s-early 1900s

Polychrome wood block print

Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.401



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Nakamura Hōchū, Japanese, fl. 1790-1813  
Kinkado of Edo, Japanese  
Tampankan, Japanese  
Ogata Kōrin, Japanese, 1658-1716  
*Peonies (Botan), Korin gafu (An album of pictures by Korin)*, late 1800s-early 1900s  
Polychrome wood block print  
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.437



Mori Ransai, Japanese, 1740?-1801  
Kawanabe Kyōsai, Japanese, 1831-1889  
Suwaraya Mohei, Japanese  
Owada Yasubei, Japanese  
Inoue Shofu, Japanese  
Inoue Seifu, Japanese  
*Complete illustration of a magpie in a tree*, from the illustrated book *Ransai gafu (Picture book by Ransai)*, 1801  
Woodblock print  
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.465



Mori Ransai, Japanese, 1740?-1801  
Owada Yasubei, Japanese  
Suwaraya Mohei, Japanese  
Inoue Seifu, Japanese  
Inoue Shofu, Japanese  
*Falcon and small bird in waves*, from the illustrated book *Ransai gafu (Picture book by Ransai)*, 1801  
Woodblock print  
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.469



Kitao Masayoshi, Japanese, 1764-1824  
Keisai Eisen, Japanese, 1790-1848  
*Oriole (Kori)*, From *Raikin zui (Pictures of imported birds)*, 1790  
Polychrome woodblock print  
Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.525.2



# RISD MUSEUM

Kitao Masayoshi, Japanese, 1764-1824

Keisai Eisen, Japanese, 1790-1848

*Bunting (Gabicho), Raikin zui (Pictures of imported birds)*, 1790

Polychrome woodblock print

Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.526.2



Kitao Masayoshi, Japanese, 1764-1824

Keisai Eisen, Japanese, 1790-1848

*Quail (Chikukei), Raikin zui (Pictures of imported birds)*, 1790

Polychrome woodblock print

Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.529.2



Mori Shunkei, Japanese, active ca. 1800-1820

*Insects and pinks (Mushi to nadeshiko), Insect album*, 1905

Polychrome woodblock print

Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.598



Mori Shunkei, Japanese, active ca. 1800-1820

Tobu Tani Seiko

Tani Seiko, Japanese

*Butterflies (Cho), Things Creeping Under Hand*, 1820

Polychrome woodblock print

Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 34.607



Kitagawa Utamaro, Japanese, 1754-1806

Tsutaya Jūzaburō, Japanese, 1750 - 1797

*Cormorant and egret (U to sagi), A myriad of birds compared with kyoka poems (Momo chidori kyoka awase)*, ca. 1790

Polychrome wood block print

Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 38.003



# RISD MUSEUM

Kitagawa Utamaro, Japanese, 1754-1806

Tsutaya Jūzaburō, Japanese, 1750 - 1797

*Great tit, Japanese robin (Shijukara komadori), A myriad of birds compared with kyoka poems (Momo chidori kyoka awase)*, ca. 1790

Polychrome woodblock print

Gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. 38.009



Hasegawa Tōun, Japanese

Yoshida Goheiji, Japanese, late 17th century

*Eight Views of the Xiao and Xiang Rivers with Chinese and Japanese Poems*, 1695

Woodblock printed book with mica

Gift of Mrs. Carroll Miller 53.303



Kōno Bairei, Japanese, 1844-1895

Yamada Unsodo

*Horseradish; flowering cherry (Wasabi; yaezakura), One hundred flowering plants (Soka hyakushu)*, 1901

Polychrome woodblock print

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Sonnabend 80.062.1



Kōno Bairei, Japanese, 1844-1895

Yamada Unsodo

*Corn flower (or, Rodger's bronze leaf); senrikoma (left) (Yagurumaso; senrikoma), One hundred flowering plants (Soka hyakushu)*, 1901

Polychrome woodblock print

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Sonnabend 80.062.3

