

We holding a special exhibition,

**The Soul of the Brush -the Line's Pull, the Color's Spell
From Matabei to Hokusai and Kuniyoshi**

from February 9th - April 4th, 2021



From March 9th, the second half of the exhibition will finally start!

The word *ukiyo-e* tends to be associated with woodblock prints, but brush-drawn *ukiyo-e*, unique works that are the product of the brush of each artist, antedate prints. In these paintings, we can directly perceive the complex, profound color techniques these artists used as well as their distinctive brushwork.

This exhibition presents 125 brush-drawn paintings by more than sixty *ukiyo-e* artists. They include Iwasa Matabei, who is regarded as the precursor of *ukiyo-e* painters, Hishikawa Moronobu, the founder of *ukiyo-e*, plus Kitagawa Utamaro, Tōshūsai Sharaku, Katsushika Hokusai, and Utagawa Kuniyoshi. The abundance of works on display includes Important Cultural Properties, Important Works of Art, and about forty works being displayed for the first time, including newly discovered or rediscovered works.

Through these brush-drawn paintings, the wellspring of *ukiyo-e*, visitors will gain a visceral sense of the 300-year history of *ukiyo-e*—the force of each artist's skillful strokes, magical colors, and the soul of the brush, alive in each painting.

Exhibition Composition

Section 1. From the Dawn of *Ukiyo-e* to the First Half of the Eighteenth Century

Section 2. Flourishing *Ukiyo-e*

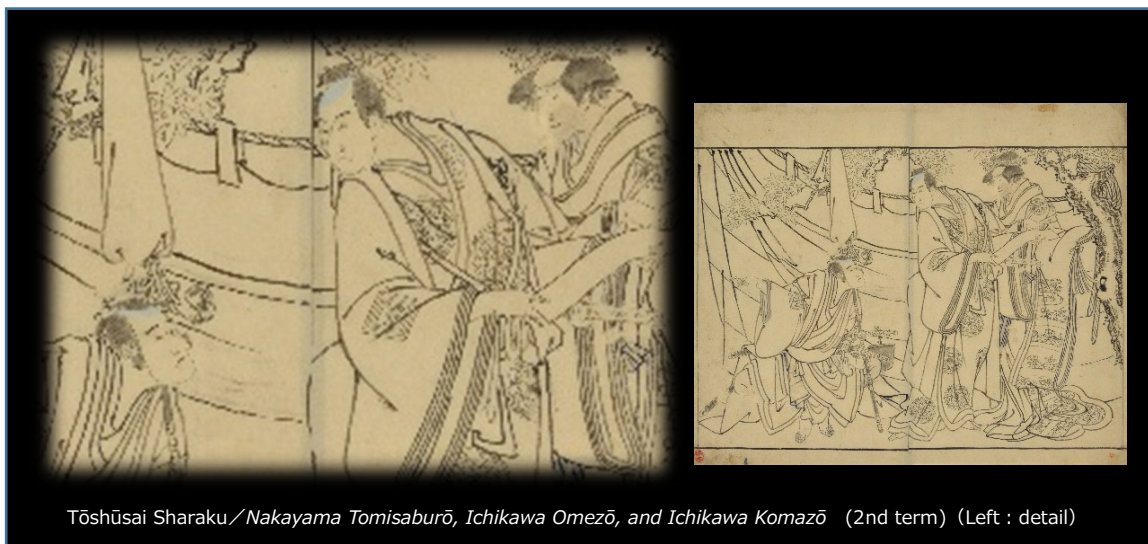
Section 3. Bakumatsu Masters: The Katsushika and Utagawa Schools

Exhibition Highlights !

Iwasa Matabei (1578-1650) was the youngest child of Araki Murashige, lord of Itami castle in Settsu province. He is said to have studied painting with Kanō Naizen of the Kanō school and with Tosa school painters, then built his own style, incorporating elements from a variety of schools.



Tōshūsai Sharaku (n.d.) This work was drawn by Tōshūsai Sharaku, who is known as the artist who created a unique actor print style without parallel among the various *ukiyo-e* schools. This work is especially significant since few brush-drawn works by Sharaku survive.





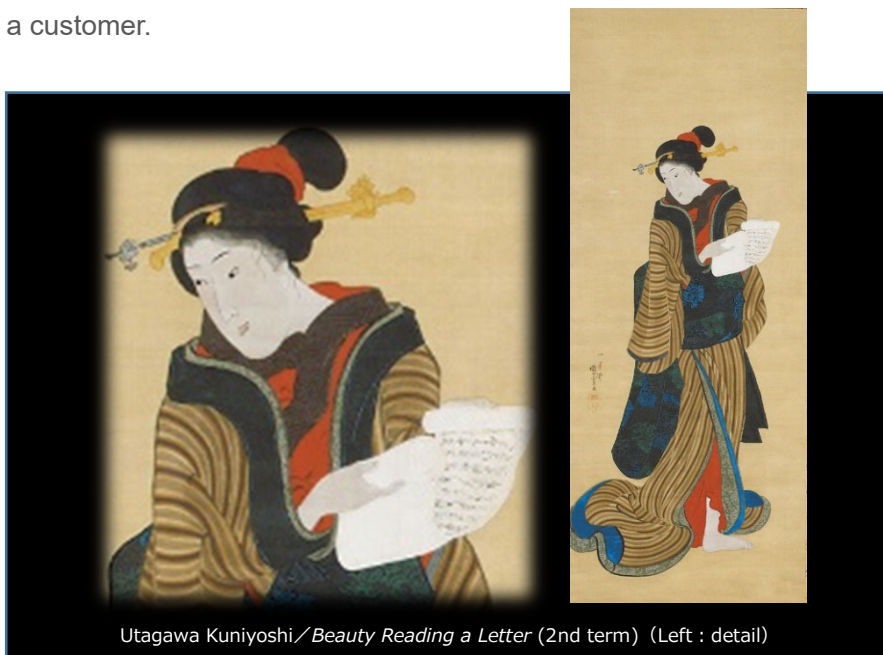
Exhibition Highlights !

Katsukawa Shunshō (1743-92) is said to have been a pupil of Miyagawa (Katsukawa) Shunsui. Starting in the Meiwa era (1764-72), his portrait-style actor prints gained great popularity. He also created many masterpieces in the brush-painted *bijinga* genre, particularly during the Tenmei era (1781-89).



Katsukawa Shunshō / *The Seven Sages of the Bamboo Grove* (2nd term) (Left : detail)

Utagawa Kuniyoshi (1798-1861) is famed for his depictions of warriors, but he also excelled at *bijinga* with a familiar, approachable quality. In this painting, the woman seems to be relaxing, her *obi* partially untied, the ends dangling in back. The scene may be that of a *geisha* reading a letter from a customer.



Utagawa Kuniyoshi / *Beauty Reading a Letter* (2nd term) (Left : detail)



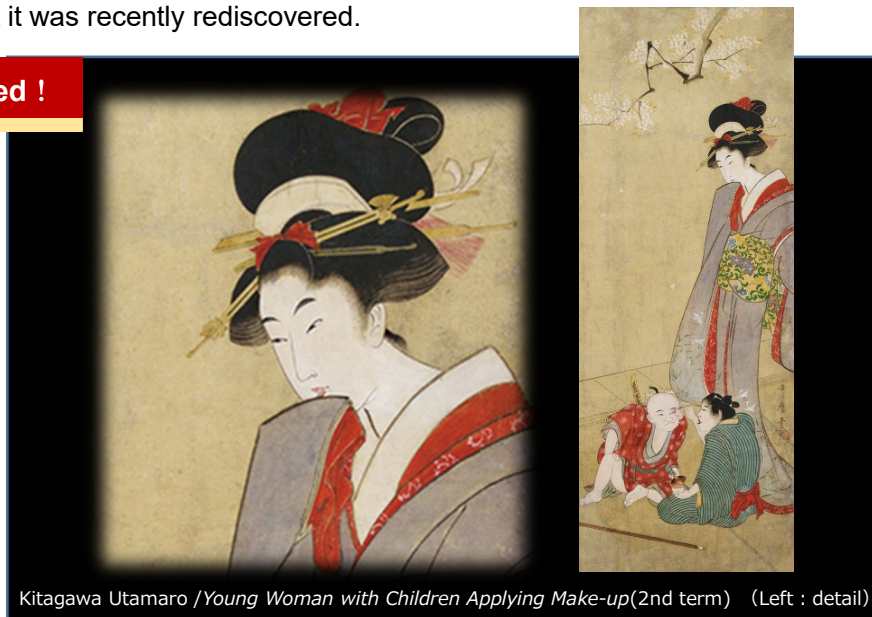
Exhibition Highlights !

Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849), the leading *ukiyo-e* artist of the latter half of the Edo period, is famed for his signature series *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*, his *Sketches by Hokusai*, and other masterworks. This painting depicts a Yoshiwara *oiran* or high-ranking courtesan, dressed in a gorgeous kimono and wearing high *geta* sandals as she processes to greet a customer.



Kitagawa Utamaro (ca. 1753-1806), a pupil of Toriyama Sekien, took the world by storm with the bust portraits of beautiful women he created in the Kansei era (1789-1801). This painting, depicts children playing at putting on Kabuki makeup while their older sister watches them, a smile on her face. The whereabouts of this painting had been unknown since the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, but it was recently rediscovered.

Rediscovered !



Exhibition Overview

■ **Exhibition title:**

The Soul of the Brush -the Line's Pull, the Color's Spell From Matabei to Hokusai and Kuniyoshi

■ **Term:** February 9th, 2021 (Tue) -April 4th, 2021 (Sun)

2 Term : March 9th (Tue) -April 4th (Sun)

■ **Closed:** Every Monday or the following day if it is a national holiday.

■ **Hours:** 9:30-17:30 (last admission 17:00)

■ **Website:** <https://hokusai-museum.jp/fudedamashii/>

■ **Organizers:** Sumida City, The Sumida Hokusai Museum

■ **Exhibition director:** Masato Naito : Professor, Faculty of Letters, Keio University

■ **Planning cooperation :** Edo Culture Laboratory Co., Ltd.

■ **Contact:**

Museum Public relation promotion group, Hayashi

■ **E-Mail :** hm-pr@hokusai-museum.jp



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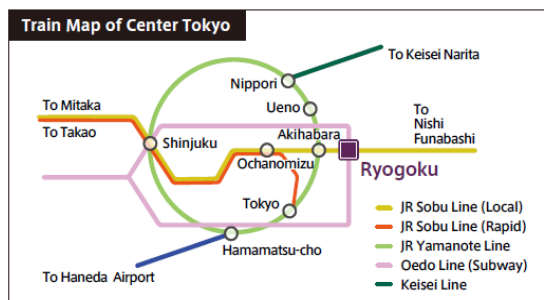
Address : 2-7-2 Kamezawa, Sumida-ku, Tokyo, 130-0014, Japan

Tel : 03-6658-8936

web site: <https://hokusai-museum.jp/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HokusaiMuseum>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/THE.SUMIDA.HOKUSAI.MUSEUM/>

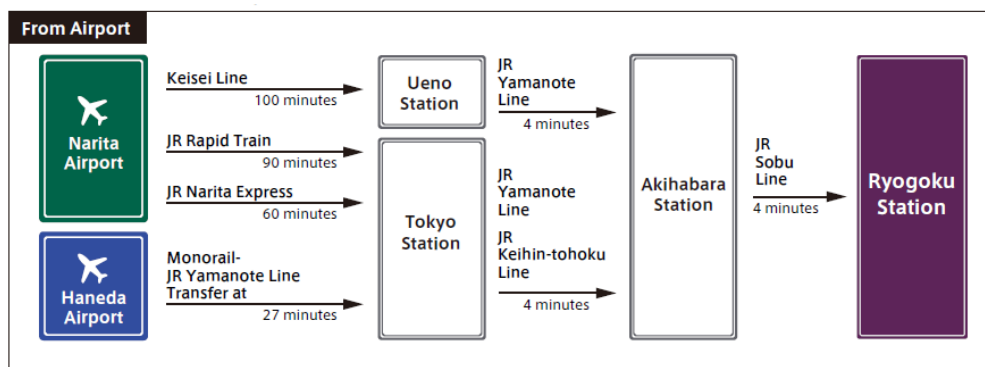


◆ **Access**

*5-minute walk from the Toei Oedo Line Ryogoku Station A3 exit

*9-minute walk from JR Sobu Line Ryogoku Station East exit

*5-minute by Sumida Loop Bus from the JR Sobu Line Kinshicho Station North exit



The Sumida Hokusai Museum measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19

Requests of visitors for cooperation on COVID-19 infection prevention

1. We will carry out temperature measurements before entering the museum. Please refrain from visiting if you have a cough, sore throat, fever, fatigue, etc.
2. Please disinfect your hands and fingers when entering the building. We have an alcohol disinfectant at the entrance of the building.
3. Please do not touch the display case in the exhibition room.
4. Please refrain from talking in the exhibition room.
5. You can touch by hand the touch screen panel and the wood-block printed books on the 4th floor AURORA (permanent exhibition room) and permanent exhibition room plus. Please disinfect your hands and fingers before and after viewing them.
6. Please wearing a mask.
7. Please cover your mouth with a mask, handkerchief, tissue, etc. when coughing or sneezing.
8. The passengers in the elevator are limited to 2 people. However, families and caregivers can use it together.

お客様へご協力のお願い

Notice: About infection prevention measures of COVID-19
Request for cooperation

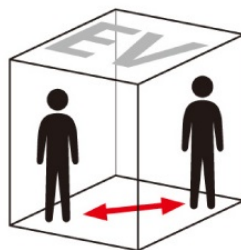


エレベーターご利用の際のお願い

Requests when using the elevator
About infection prevention measures of COVID-19

新型コロナウイルス感染拡大防止の観点から当面の間、
エレベーターの定員を**2名**に制限しております。

The elevator is limited to 2 people.



但し、ご家族や介助者の方は、一緒にご利用いただけます。
However, families and caregivers can use it together.

展示室内でのお願い

Request in the Exhibition room
About infection prevention measures of COVID-19

他のお客様と距離を空けて
ご鑑賞ください

Please keep a distance 2m



展示室内での会話は
お控えください

Please refrain from talking



展示室内の人数が密にならないよう
入場制限を行います

Admission restrictions



Our efforts to prevent coronavirus infection.

1. The space used by customers has already been disinfected. Water and alcohol cannot be used in some of the display cases, only dry wipe is carried out.
2. Handrails, elevator buttons, toilet-handle, and tap, are disinfected several times a day.
3. Our staff at the museum who come in contact with customers, wear masks.
4. We have installed a virus splash prevention panel at the reception / museum shop.
5. In order to keep a good environment in the building, we may restrict admission, and the staff speaks to the customer to call attention.
6. MARUGEN100 (lecture room) and Library: continuing to be closed.
7. We do not accept new reservations for the use of MARUGEN100 (lecture room) and group viewing.

*Please check the Sumida Hokusai Museum official website for details before visiting.