



# PRESS RELEASE



THE SUMIDA HOKUSAI MUSEUM

2-7-2 Kamezawa, Sumida-ku, Tokyo, 130-0014  
<https://hokusai-museum.jp>

## Let's Flap Your Wings with Hokusai Birds:

## Ukiyo-e exhibition "The Hokusai Bird Park", Mar 14-May 21

TOKYO, March, 1, 2023 / The Sumida Hokusai Museum



Hello Bird Lovers! You can fly on the wings of Hokusai's birds to savor the delightful world that birds and human beings weave together, " The Hokusai Bird Park " in The Sumida Hokusai Museum Exhibition. This exhibition provides an opportunity to appreciate the many birds that Hokusai and his students depicted and the avian designs they created. Imagine yourself in a bird park as you experience close at hand these creatures' beauty and the superb artistry deployed in creating these works.

### The Hokusai Bird Park



**Term:** March 14 - May 21, 2023

**First term:** March 14 - April 16 / **Second term:** April 18 - May 21

\*Some exhibits will be changed during the exhibition period.

**Open:** Tuesday - Sunday 9:30-17:30 (Last admission 17:00)

**Closed:** Mondays

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

**Official Exhibition Website:** <https://hokusai-museum.jp/BirdParkEN/>

# Exhibition Highlight

Bird lovers abound today. And the roots of the Japanese love of birds run deep: bird-shaped ceramics have been discovered dating from the *Jōmon* period (11,000 to 400 BCE)! When the *Man'yōshū*, Japan's first poetry anthology, was being compiled in the seventh and eighth centuries, birds were used to communicate both seasons and emotions. Hokusai himself continued that tradition, creating many works that depict birds.

## 1: Birdwatching: Enjoy the Captivating Painting Techniques

A birding boom burst out during the Edo period (1603-1867). Raising birds was fashionable, and peacock teahouses and bird-and-flower teahouses also existed, people in Edo would go out to see birds. Exhibition presents works that display types of birds, with relatively unknown birds.



### ◀The Sumida Hokusai Museum first public showing!

The **lesser cuckoo** was painted in dark and light shades of *sumi* ink and thick and thin lines to express the texture of its feathers, their lustrousness and softness, depicted the moon floating in the night sky softly by contrast. Hokusai also depicted the red interior of its mouth, another characteristic of this bird.

Katsushika Hokusai, *Lesser Cuckoo*, The Sumida Hokusai Museum (1st term)



Katsushika Hokusai  
*Bull-headed Shrike and Bluebird with Begonia and Wild Strawberry*  
The Sumida Hokusai Museum (1st term)



Katsushika Hokusai  
*Java Finch and Kobushi Magnolia*  
The Sumida Hokusai Museum  
(Exhibit full-term with changes in works)

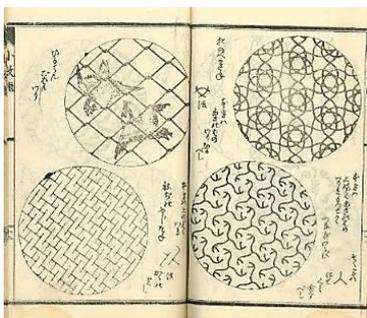


Katsushika Hokusai  
*Crossbill and Thistle*  
The Sumida Hokusai Museum (2nd term)



Katsushika Hokusai  
*Japanese Grosbeak and Four-O'Clock*  
The Sumida Hokusai Museum (2nd term)

## 2: Bird Gear: Outstanding Sense of Design



Katsushika Hokusai  
*A Book of New Patterns*  
The Sumida Hokusai Museum (full term)

Bird designs are still popular today, and even in the Edo period, avian designs were applied in *kimono* motifs, craft objects, and other products. Hokusai included many bird-related items in the collections of designs for combs and pipes that he created. For this drawing manual, Hokusai designed *komon* (small repeat) patterns for *kimono*. The **sparrow** pattern was often used on *kimono*.

## 3: Birds as Stage Design Elements: Not only captivate the visual beauty.

The Japanese have also, since long in the past, used birds to express the seasons and their emotions. They focus on the roles birds play as stage design elements. This print depicts a **hawk**, a bird used in falconry.



Katsushika Hokusai  
*Hawk and Cherry Blossoms*  
The Sumida Hokusai Museum (1st term)

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## ▶ Katsushika Hokusai

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Keisai Eisen, *Hokusai portrait*,  
National Diet Library

Japanese *Ukiyo-e* artist Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849) was born in Sumida, Tokyo. It is said that Hokusai moved more than 90 times during his 90-year life, spending most of his lifetime in Sumida, and left many works depicting the scenery of Sumida, including Ryōgoku Bridge, Mimeguri Shrine, and Ushijima Shrine. He vividly captured life in the Edo Period and is best known for the series “*Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*” which includes representative Japan’s most iconic artwork “*Under the Wave off Kanagawa*”, known internationally as *The Great wave*. His fascinating life and varied works spanning more than 70 years are more highly regarded today than ever, 160 years after his death. Today, he and his works are in the limelight as one of the most acclaimed artists in the world.

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## ▶ Museum

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The **Sumida Hokusai Museum** is the "growing museum" that provides information about Hokusai and his students to the local community and the world!

**Open : Tuesday - Sunday**

9:30-17:30 (Last admission 17:00)

**Closed : Mondays**

(The following day if it is a national holiday)

**New Year holidays:** December 29 - January 1

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

**Tel :** 03-6658-8936

**Official website:** <https://hokusai-museum.jp/>

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



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## ▶ Request of Visitors Cooperation COVID-19 Infection Prevention

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**Visitor Guidelines :** Health and Safety During Your Visit for Keeping us All Safe

<https://hokusai-museum.jp/modules/Topic/topics/view/961?lang=en>

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## ▶ The Sumida Hokusai Museum Digital Brochure Download

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