

2010

Japanese Wood Engravings and Brush Paintings Collection

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Japanese Wood Engravings and Brush Paintings Collection

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Collection number: MSS-2010-07-01



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Date Completed:

July 2010

Encoded by:

Silke Higgins

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Japanese Wood Engravings and Brush Paintings Collection

Dates: 1791-1958

Collection number: MSS-2010-07-01

Creator: San José State University

Collection Size: 34 prints and 3 brush paintings in 2 flat file drawers

Repository: San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The Japanese Wood Engravings and Brush Paintings Collection, 1791-1958, consists of thirty-four color wood engravings created by Japanese artists from the mid 1800s to the 20th century, and three brush paintings created by artist Shuho Kawashima in 1958. This collection is arranged into two series: Series I: Japanese Wood Engravings, 1791-1942; and Series II: Japanese Brush Paintings, 1958.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Japanese Wood Engravings and Brush Paintings Collection, MSS-2010-07-01, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Silke Higgins. Finding aid EAD encoded by Silke Higgins. Reviewed by Danelle Moon.

Project Information

This finding aid was created as part of the Survey and Cataloging Project, a two-year San José State University Library grant project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project began in 2008. The Project Director is Danelle Moon. The Project Archivist is Erin Louthen.

Organizational History

The thirty-four Japanese wood engravings contained in this collection were initially purchased by the Humanities Department of San José State University as part of a collection of 300 original prints and subsequently housed in the department's reading room. In 1978, a small number of the engravings were selected for an exhibit, which focused on the San José State University library's extensive print collection. The engravings were displayed at Gallery One, located in the Department of Art at San Carlos and Ninth Streets from November 6-17, 1978. In 1982, the decision was made to move the Japanese wood engravings to the San José Special Collections and Archives then located on the third floor of the Wahlquist building. Here they remained until in 2003, they moved to their current home in the Special Collections and Archives facility on the 5th floor of the new Dr. Martin King Jr. Library. The three brush paintings of this collection were created by artist Shuho Kawashima in a demonstration of Japanese brush painting in Dr. Esther Shephard's class in Oriental Literature (English 119) on May 5, 1958.

Related Material

Esther Shephard Papers, MSS-2009-11-01, San José State University Special Collections & Archives.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Japanese Wood Engravings and Brush Paintings Collection, 1791-1958, consists of thirty-four color wood engravings created by Japanese artists from the mid 1800s to the 20th century, and three brush paintings created by artist Shuho Kawashima in 1958.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into two series: Series I: Japanese Wood Engravings, 1791-1942; and Series II: Japanese Brush Paintings, 1958.

Subject Headings

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

San José State University -- Humanities Dept. -- History

San José State University -- English Dept. -- History

Education, Higher -- California -- San José

Art -- Exhibitions

Japanese art

Paintings

Wood-engravings

Series 1: Japanese Wood Engravings 1791-1942

Physical Description: 2 flat file drawers

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series is comprised of thirty-four Japanese wood engravings created with two techniques: Block print on rice cloth and silk screen print.

Of special interest in this series is Hiroshi Yoshida's print *Criptomeria Avenue*, created in the ukiyo-e (floating world) tradition, a printing method going back to 17th century Japan. Traditionally, these prints were planned by the master printmaker but executed in his shop by supervised assistants. Hiroshi Yoshida was one of the last artists to work in the traditional shop fashion. Coming from a family of printmakers he initially began his career as a painter, studying in the Japanese city of Kyoto, as well as in Europe. Yoshida is known to have made at least one visit to the United States where he exhibited at the 1915 World Fair in San Francisco, California. The print in this collection is known to be one of the few copies created by Yoshida himself.

Arrangement

The prints in this series are arranged in two drawers, foldered in alphabetical order by artist: Drawer 04-01 Japanese Wood Engravings A-S, and Drawer 04-02 Japanese Wood Engravings T-Y.

Drawer 04-01

Japanese Wood Engravings A-S

Subseries Scope and Content Summary

Hiroshi, Yoshida (1876-1950), *Criptomeria Avenue*, undated
Hiroshi, Yoshida (1876-1950), *Evening at Hot Springs*, undated
Hiroshi, Yoshida (1876-1950), *On the Lake (Ike-No-Hata)*, undated
Hokusai, *House Scene*, undated
Hokusai, *Men (Dyptich)*, undated
Kan-un, *Geese and Leaves*, undated
Katsushika, Hokusai (1797-1849), *The Great Wave*, undated
Kiyonaga (1742-1815), *Man With a Tea Housemate*, undated
Kiyonaga, Torii (1742-1815), *Nihonbashi at New Years*, undated
Kiyonaga, Torii (1742-1815), *Theatrical Group*, undated
Kiyonaga, Torii (1742-1815), *Women Going to the City*, undated (2 prints)
Kitagawa, Utamaro (1753?-1806), *Beauties Enjoying the Cool Breeze on a Bridge*, undated
Kitagawa, Utamaro (1753?-1806), *Anxious in Love*, undated
Otaga, Korin, *Magnolia*, undated
Otaga, Korin, *Three Cranes*, undated
Otaga, Korin, *Three Turtles*, undated
Shotei, *Chrysanthemums*, undated
Shuho, Yamakawa (20th century), *Modern Matsume*, undated

Drawer 04-02

Japanese Wood Engravings T-Y

Subseries Scope and Content Summary

Toyokuni (1769-1825), *Rich Man's Servant*, undated
Toyokuni (1769-1825), *Geisha Girl*, undated
Tsutsugo, *Geisha Girls*, undated
Uiagawa, Kunniyoshi (1798-1861), *Actor*, undated
Unknown Artist, *Flower Cluster*, undated
Unknown Artist, *Hillside Villa*, undated
Unknown Artist, *Japanese Lady with Blossoms*, undated
Unknown Artist, *Japanese Plants*, undated
Unknown Artist, *Landscape with Houses*, undated
Unknown Artist, *Leafy Plant*, undated
Unknown Artist, *Mounted and Un-mounted Samurai Battling*, 20th century
Unknown Artist, *Persons in Front of and Crossing a Bridge*, 20th century
Unknown Artist, *Rock and Flowering Branch*, undated
Unknown Artist, *Servants Carrying the Litter of a Noble Lady and Child*, 20th century
Unknown Artist, *Two Japanese Men*, undated
Urushibara, *Lobster and Clams*, undated
Yasuo, Kuniyoshi (1893-1953), *The Little Pond*, 1942

Series II: Japanese Brush Paintings 1958

Physical Description: 1 folder

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series is comprised of three Japanese brush paintings created by artist Shuho Kawashima as a demonstration of the technique of Japanese brush painting in Dr. Esther Shephard's class in Oriental Literature (English 119) on May 15, 1958.

The paintings are described by the artist as being depictions of "Pine, Bamboo, and Plum Blossom, the 'Three That Do Not Fear The Winter.'" "They are especially honored by the Chinese and the Japanese, the first two because they remain green through the season of 'Great Cold,' the last because it lives to a gnarled old age and each year puts out its blossoms very early in the spring."

Arrangement

The paintings in this series are arranged into one folder and housed in Drawer 04-02 Japanese Wood Engravings T-Y.