



Falcon and Cherry Blossoms

Press release

Special exhibition :

Hokusai's animals

5 February – 7 April 2019

The Sumida Hokusai Museum

Tokyo, Japan...The Sumida Hokusai Museum is pleased to present “Hokusai’s animals,” on view from 5 February to 7 April, 2019. The exhibition will focus on the food culture of edo period.

Hokusai’s Animals introduces the animals that appear the work of Hokusai and his students. While known for landscapes such as the Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji, Hokusai also created a veritable zoo of animals: mammals, birds, insects, and sea creatures. In his afterword to *One Hundred Views of Mount Fuji*, a book of model drawings published when he was seventy-five, Hokusai expressed his passionate devotion to his art, stating that nothing he painted before the age of seventy was worthy of attention, at seventy-three, he began to grasp the structures of birds and beasts, insects and fish, and of the way plants grow, and if he lived past a hundred and ten, he promised, every dot and every stroke he painted would be alive.

Already, in Hokusai’s work from his sixties (which corresponded approximately to the Bunsei era, 1818-30) we see a distinctive approach to painting the eye, always a difficult subject. Hokusai, who had studied the work of many schools of painting, including the Nanpin school, with its meticulous realism, sought a style that transcends straightforward depiction to express the essence of living things, a style we can see in his charming animals.

The creatures Hokusai brought to life include animals drawn with great realism, animals that are radiantly adorable, and terrifying creatures that exist only in his paintings. He also used animals as design motifs, adapted them in toys, and repeatedly depicted the animals that are staple characters in tales and legends. This exhibition reveals the extraordinary range of the compelling animals drawn by Hokusai and his pupils. It is said that when Hokusai was over 80, he wept as he told his daughter Oei that he could not even draw a cat properly. Was he right? Here, experience for yourself the animals that Hokusai, never satisfied with his achievements as an artist, brought to life.

Exhibition Structure

Section 1 Animals, So Alive

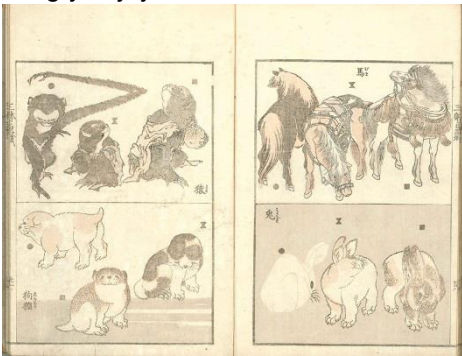


Hokusai painted creatures large and small throughout his career, striving to bring them to life with his brush. Here we present the vivid animals that Hokusai and his students depicted. As you explore them, please note the distinctive depictions of eyes found in Hokusai's work.

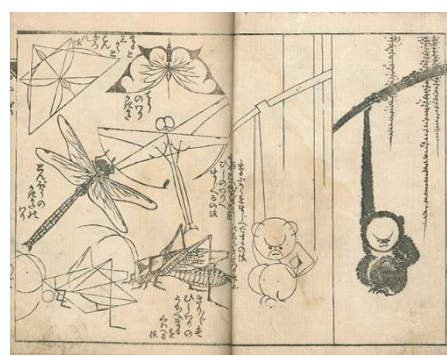
"Ono-shinden in Suruga Province, from the series Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji"

Section 2 Adorable Animals

This section brings together particularly charming animal pictures by Hokusai and his students. Among them lurk creatures that may seem rather pesky but, upon inspection, are adorable indeed. Let Hokusai's heartwarming animals bring you joy.



"An Album of Painting in Three Styles"



"Quick Guide to Drawing, Vol. 1"



"Sketches by Hokusai: Cursive Drawing" Section

Section 3 Animals Only in Paintings

Hokusai did not confine himself to painting actual animals. He depicted animals turned into toys or textile designs. He also drew the animals that figured in familiar legends and tales, in which animal specters and monsters often appear. In his day, people believed in *kappa* (water sprites) and *kamaitachi* (slashing weasels), and Hokusai depicted them just as he did other animals. Here, then, please enjoy animals you will never see in a zoo, animals that exist only in paintings.



"Sketches by Hokusai, Vol. 3"



"Fan and Tobacco Pouch: Horse Iris, from the series A Selection of Horses"

Exhibition Overview

- ◆ **Exhibition title:** Hokusai's animals
- ◆ **Term :** 5 February - 7 April 2019
 - *1 term: Tue 5 Sep - Sun 3 Mar
 - *2 term: Tue 5 Mar – Sun 7 April
- * Closed: Every Monday Open: Mon 11 Feb, Closed: Tue 12 Feb

◆ **Organizer :** Sumida City the Sumida Hokusai Museum

◆ **Contact :** The Sumida Hokusai Museum

- ◆ **Admission Fees :**
 - Adults ¥1000 (800) HS University Students ¥700 (560)
 - JHS Students ¥300(240) 65 and over ¥700 (560)
 - Disabled peoples ¥300 (240) ※ () means group Fee

*Group admission applies to 20 or more paying adults.

*Students in elementary school and younger are admitted discount of charge

*Junior high school, high school, and university students (including technical college, vocational school, and special training college students) will be requested to show student ID.

*Adults 65 and over will be requested to show a document verifying age.

*Persons with a certificate such as the following plus one accompanying person are admitted free of charge: physical disability, intellectual disability, rehabilitation, mentally handicapped health and welfare, atomic bomb victim health notebook, etc.

(Please show your certificate at time of admission.)

*Use of these tickets is limited to the day on which the exhibition is visited, and allow you to see all exhibition room



【The Sumida Hokusai Museum】

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

Closed : Every Monday

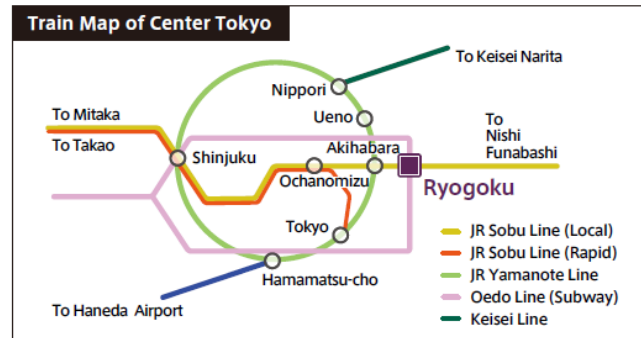
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Official web site: <http://hokusai-museum.jp/>

Official Twitter : <http://twitter.com/HokusaiMuseum/>

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



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

9-minutes walk from JR Ryogoku Station East exit

