

July 5, 2025

Special Exhibition

The LINEAGE of HOKUSAI's BEAUTIES

—Rivalry Among Masters

The Sumida Hokusai Museum (Sumida City, Tokyo) holds Special Exhibition "The Lineage of Hokusai's Beauties—Rivalry Among Masters" from September 16 to November 24.



Today Hokusai is famous for his *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji* and other landscapes depicting famous places. He was, however, also so well known for *bijinga*, pictures of beautiful women, that he is mentioned as a *bijinga* expert in the 1800 novella *Taitōkeigo (Courtesans' Words Through Connoisseurs)*. In this exhibition, we focus on Hokusai's roots as a master of *bijinga* and the evolution of his style in that genre.

Katsukawa Shunshō, his teacher when Hokusai first set foot in the world of *ukiyo-e*, was also a *bijinga* master. *Kōhen Fūzokutsū (Connoisseurs' Manners and Customs, Vol. 2)*, a novella published in 1775, praises him highly, stating, "One painting by Shunshō is worth a thousand pieces of gold." Hokusai can be positioned within an orthodox lineage of *bijinga* artists that includes Miyagawa Chōshun, who specialized in brush-drawn paintings, his *bijinga* characterized by a delicate, graceful style, Chōshun's student Miyagawa (Katsumiyagawa) Shunsui, and Shunsui's student, Shunshō.

Hokusai's style changed greatly throughout his career, with its evolution closely connected to the style of *bijinga* fashionable at the time. In this exhibition, we explore those changes in Hokusai's style, plus works by members of the *bijinga* lineage, from Miyagawa Chōshun to Hokusai and by *ukiyo-e* artists who were his contemporaries. We will also, we hope, make clear the captivating appeal of his work and its position in the *bijinga* realm.

【Summary of Exhibition】

Title	Special Exhibition "The Lineage of Hokusai's Beauties—Rivalry Among Masters"
Term	Tuesday, September 16 to Monday, November 24, 2025 *Some exhibits will be changed during the period. 1st term : September 16 to October 19 2nd term : October 22 to November 24
Closed days	Mondays (except October 13, November 3 and 24), October 14 and November 4 *On October 21, Special Exhibition is closed for preparation of the 2nd term.

Venue	3rd floor and 4th floor Exhibition Room in The Sumida Hokusai Museum
Hours	9:30 am - 5:30 pm (last entry 5:00 pm)
Organizers	Sumida City, The Sumida Hokusai Museum
Admission	Adults ¥1,500, Students (high school and university), 65 and over ¥1,000, Students (middle school) ¥500, Visitors with disabilities ¥500, Children in primary school and younger Free
Website	https://hokusai-museum.jp/hokusaibeautiesEN/
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/hokusai_museum/

- Visitors can also enter all exhibitions on the same day with the exhibition ticket.
- Identification card is necessary to get a discount ticket.
- Admission for visitors with disabilities is also available for one accompanying person with a visitor with disabilities.
- Please see the latest information about the starting date of ticket sales and the way of purchase for same-day tickets and other discount tickets on our website.

【Main artworks】

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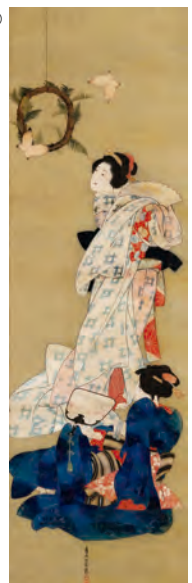
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- ① Katsushika Hokusai, *Squeaking a Ground Cherry*, from the series *Seven Fashionable Habits* (1st term)
 - ② Kitagawa Utamaro, *Pensive Love*, from the series *Anthology of Poems, the Love Section* (1st term)
 - ③ Katsushika Hokusai, *Beauty Beneath a Cherry Tree* (all terms)
 - ④ Miyagawa Chōshun, *Pleasure Boating* (Oct. 15-Nov. 24)
 - ⑤ Katsukawa Shunshō, *Strolling Beauty* (all terms)
 - ⑥ Katsushika Ōi, *Two Beauties with Butterflies* (all terms)
- All of the above are private collection.

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Request Form to Use Press Images

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« the important points of using the images from the museum »

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- Some exhibits might be changed for some reason.

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- ☐ “The Lineage of Hokusai’s Beauties—Rivalry Among Masters” flyer front page
- ☐ “The Lineage of Hokusai’s Beauties—Rivalry Among Masters” square visual (1080px×1080px)
- ☐ 1. Katsushika Hokusai, *Squeaking a Ground Cherry, from the series Seven Fashionable Habits*, private collection (1st term)
- ☐ 2. Kitagawa Utamaro, *Pensive Love, from the series Anthology of Poems, the Love Section*, private collection (1st term)
- ☐ 3. Katsushika Hokusai, *Beauty Beneath a Cherry Tree*, private collection (all terms)
- ☐ 4. Miyagawa Chōshun, *Pleasure Boating*, private collection (Oct. 15-Nov. 24)
- ☐ 5. Katsukawa Shunshō, *Strolling Beauty*, private collection (all terms)
- ☐ 6. Katsushika Ōi, *Two Beauties with Butterflies*, private collection (all terms)

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