



Fujimigahara in Owari Province, from the series Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji

Press release

Exhibition :

Edo Livelihoods by Hokusai

23 April – 9 June 2019

The Sumida Hokusai Museum

Tokyo, Japan...The Sumida Hokusai Museum is pleased to present *Edo Livelihoods by Hokusai*, on view from 23 April to 9 June 2019. The exhibition will focus on the lifestyles of people in edo period.

Edo Livelihoods by Hokusai presents works from our collection by Hokusai and his students that depict the many ways people made their living in Edo. Their livelihoods include types of work that are no longer familiar as well others that are the roots of commerce today. Hokusai portrayed people engaged in many kinds of work. Indeed, Hokusai's brush, which painted a multitude of subjects, vividly communicates how people worked in his day.

This exhibition is organized in six sections: 1. Selling Things, 2. Harvesting the Blessings of Nature, 3. Giving People Pleasure, 4. Transporting Things, 5. Making Things, and 6. Miscellaneous Livelihoods. The first section introduces a variety of merchants, including peddlers and bear balm vendors. The second introduces fishermen, loggers, and others whose work consists of harvesting resources from the natural world. The third section introduces the Edo's entertainer such as Kabuki actors and street performers. The fourth section addresses the transport industry, with its express messengers, sedan-chair bearers, and others. The fifth section presents coopers, painters, and other Edo artisans. The sixth section introduces a miscellany, from physicians to waste paper buyers.

Focusing on everyday work brings the nature of society into view. Understanding the scenes depicted in his work enables Hokusai's images to speak to us in greater detail about the lifestyles of people in Hokusai's day. Please enjoy exploring *Edo Livelihoods by Hokusai* in detail.

We would like to express our profound respect for and gratitude to everyone whose cooperation and support helped make this exhibition possible.

Exhibition Structure

Section 1. Selling Things

The theme of this section is sales, whether by street vendors hawking their wares or bear balm vendors. Today we can shop in all sorts of ways that are convenient for both the seller and the buyer, including purchasing all sorts of things in one place, such as a department store or supermarket, and shopping on the internet. In the Edo period, however, many salesmen walked through the city, carrying their wares on shoulder poles—and supporting the distribution of goods. Watch for distribution methods unlike those in use today as well as interactions between buyers and sellers that have not changed at all.

New Discovery

Hokusai's original painting

Hamaguri uri (Clam Vendor)



(detail)



(overall)

Hokusai's original painting "*Hamaguri uri (Clam Vendor)*", which has never been known, was added in our collection and will be unveiled for the first time at this exhibition. Based on our research, we changed its title from "**Shijimi** uri(Clam Vendor)" to "**Hamaguri** uri(Clam Vendor)". Shijimi and Hamaguri are different kind of crustacean. This painting has been historically called "Shijimi uri" because its Hyogu (painting's frame) had a description of "Shijimi uri" before it had been repaired in the past. However, it is guessed that Hokusai drew not Shijimi but Hamaguri according to the color of the shells. In this exhibition, we will analyze this newly discovered painting.

Section 2. Harvesting the Blessings of Nature

This section introduces fishermen, loggers, and others whose work consists of harvesting resources from the natural world. Livelihoods that require engaging directly with nature can mean working in harshly demanding environments. Hokusai's images, however, do not focus on the grimness of those environments. Rather, he is intrigued by them and depicts them in bold compositions. The energetic bodies of people toiling away and their relaxed expressions when taking a break from work are among the pleasures Hokusai's views of people working in the natural world present.



Simplified View of Tagonoura Beach at Ejiri on the Tōkaidō Road, from the series Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji



Minamoto no Muneyuki Ason, from the series One Hundred Poems Explained by a Nurse

Section 3. Giving People Pleasure

In this section, Edo's entertainers, including both Kabuki actors and street performers, take the stage. In an age without television or the many other sources of entertainment we enjoy today, performers played an important role in bringing spice to everyday lives. Since many Edo performing arts live on today, the scenes in these depictions may be familiar. Hokusai captured these entertainers' appearances so vividly that we can almost hear the music, the dialogue, the buzz of the audience. From acts that are utterly astonishing to performances of great elegance, Edo entertainers are a great delight.



Puppet on Go Board



Peepshow Box

Section 4. Transporting Things

Express messengers, sedan-chair bearers—this section presents people engaged in moving people and things from one place to another. Today, we mainly use cars and trucks, ships, and airplanes for transport; relying on human strength itself has become rare. Ships were used to transport goods in the Edo period, too, but much transport was carried out without relying on machines. It was hard work for people to haul things themselves or use horses or other animals to carry them, but here we can also see people working in concert, sharing their burdens.



Poem by Fujiwara no Michinobu Ason, from the series One Hundred Poems Explained by a Nurse



Mount Fuji from Kanaya on the Tōkaidō Road, from the series Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji

Section 5. Making Things

This section presents people with superb skills, from coopers to painters. Today, with innovations such as 3D printing, the mechanization of production is accelerating, but in Hokusai's day, everything was made by hand. Another striking difference is the position of painters and others whose occupations today would define them as artists. In the Edo period, a painter was regarded as a craftsman. Giving thought to those differences in the nature of society will add extra interest to your exploration of Hokusai's views of craftsmen in Edo.



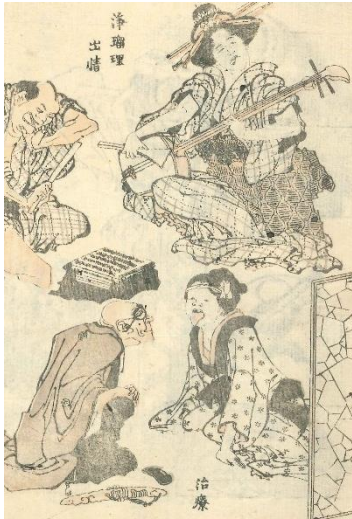
Fujimigahara in Owari Province, from the series Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji



Ōtsu, from the series The Fifty-three Stations, Coming and Going to Edo

Section 6. Miscellaneous Livelihoods

This section introduces occupations—from physicians to collectors of paper for recycling—that the categories in the earlier sections cannot encompass. It also includes group portraits of a variety of livelihoods. Knowing how they made their livings helps us imagine the worldly wisdom they shared and what their lifestyles were. After looking at all the images in this exhibition, we trust that you will have a vivid image of how the people depicted in these *ukiyo-e* lived and be more engaged with the Edo world than ever before.



Medical Treatment, from "Sketches by Hokusai, Vol. 12"

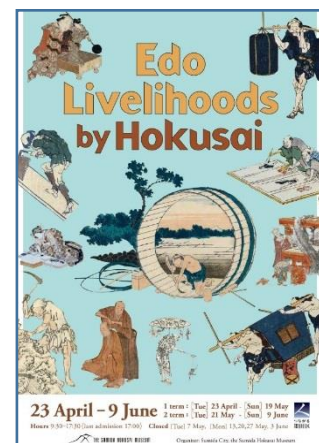


Dressing a samurai's Hair

Exhibition Overview

- ◆ **Exhibition title:** Edo Livelihoods by Hokusai
- ◆ **Term :** 23 April - 9 June 2019
 - *1 term: Tue 23 April - Sun 19 May
 - *2 term: Tue 21 May – Sun 9 June
- * Closed: Every Monday Open: Mon 6 May, Closed: Tue 7 May
- ◆ **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

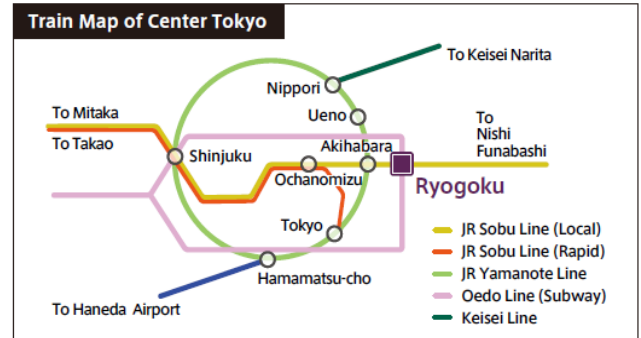
Address : 2-7-2 Kamesawa, Sumida-ku, Tokyo, 130-0014, Japan

Tel : 03-6658-8936

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

