

The Sumida Hokusai Museum is holding a special exhibition,

THE HOKUSAI —

Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji and A Long-Lost Picture Scroll

July 20th – September 26th, 2021



We hope you will take a look at the exhibition outlined in this release, and we would greatly appreciate any support and assistance you could provide with press coverage or publicity for the event.

Hokusai's Greatest Masterpieces Are Here!

This exhibition showcases a total of about a hundred of Katsushika Hokusai's most widely admired works throughout the exhibition period, which is divided into two terms. The main focus is on two superb works from the Sumida Hokusai Museum collection, namely the *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji* series and the long-lost *Scenery on Both Banks of the Sumida River* picture scroll. The rediscovery of this scroll a century after its disappearance caused a sensation when it was first exhibited at the museum's commemorative opening exhibition.

The current exhibition's highlights also include two remarkable sights, both being exhibited for the first time: three different versions of *Rainstorm Beneath the Summit* from the series *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji* displayed side by side, and a newly discovered brazier made from the woodblocks used for Hokusai's *nishiki-e* (polychrome print) *Hawk and Cherry Blossoms* and other prints.

We hope that in viewing these masterpieces, visitors to the exhibition will enjoy experiencing Japan's scenic beauty throughout the four seasons and views of places along the Sumida River that have been famous sightseeing destinations since the Edo period, as well as Hokusai's peerless brushwork and creative power.

Exhibition Composition

1. All *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*
2. Grand Views of Bridges and Waterfalls
3. A Paradise of Birds, Flowers, and Insects (exhibiting a brazier made of four woodblocks, including one for Katsushika Hokusai's *Hawk and Cherry Blossoms*)
4. The Long-Lost *Scenery on Both Banks of the Sumida River* Picture Scroll



Highlight 1

Hokusai's *nishiki-e* print *Hawk and Cherry Blossoms* is on display together with a unique brazier made from four woodblocks, including one for that particular print.



① Katsushika Hokusai, *Hawk and Cherry Blossoms*, The Sumida Hokusai Museum collection (1 Term)
② A brazier made of four woodblocks, including one for Katsushika Hokusai's *Hawk and Cherry Blossoms*, Private collection, Deposited in the Sumida Hokusai Museum collection (All Terms) *the first public exhibition

A brazier made from four woodblocks, one of which is considered to have been used to produce Hokusai's full-color *nishiki-e* *Hawk and Cherry Blossoms* ^{*1}, is on display together with that particular print. This brazier is an extremely rare item and this is the first time it has appeared at a public exhibition.

The brazier is constructed using four woodblocks for *ukiyo-e* prints including the above-mentioned *Hawk and Cherry Blossoms*. A rectangular side plate is an original woodblock of Hokusai's. All four woodblocks were key blocks ^{*2}, and their high quality as materials and their splendid designs with beautiful images must have persuaded a craftsman to reuse them for this brazier. In addition, woodblocks for Hokusai's *nishiki-e* prints are extremely rare and historically invaluable.

*1

Hawk and Cherry Blossoms is one in a series of bird and flower prints in a long and large format bearing motifs that were auspicious symbols. It is thought that they were sold as New Year decorations. The work depicts a hawk used for *takagari* falconry sitting on a perch and resting its feathers, while a cherry tree in full blossom stands in the background.

*2

There are essentially two types of woodblocks, namely key woodblocks for carving outlines and color woodblocks representing color masses. Since a key woodblock requires fine carving to reproduce precise images, a solid wood with a fine texture such as wild cherry is used as its material.



Highlight 2

Three major color woodblock print series by Hokusai are showcased, namely *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*, *A Tour of the Waterfalls in Various Provinces* and *Remarkable Views of Bridges in Various Provinces*.

Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji (forty-six images), *A Tour of the Waterfalls in Various Provinces* (eight images) and *Remarkable Views of Bridges in Various Provinces* (eleven images) are Hokusai's three most important and representative *nishiki-e* series. Full sets of each series will be displayed by dividing the exhibition period into two terms. While showcasing a perspective on the full range of prints in each series, the exhibition introduces Hokusai's peerless brushwork and his ability to conceive and describe a single subject in a variety of approaches.

Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji

Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji, which Hokusai created in his seventies, is a series of forty-six *nishiki-e* prints introducing landscapes with views of Mount Fuji from a variety of locations. It is famous as Hokusai's representative series and is also considered to be his very best work.

The popular designs in this series were produced in different states of printing and variations were made. This exhibition shows several variations on *Rainstorm Beneath the Summit*, such as an example that is very close to the first edition and a variation in which the image of a pine wood has been added to the skirts of mountain. Different editions, even when they share the same title, can create a completely different impression, and we hope viewers will enjoy the unique attraction that these woodcut prints exude.

◆ ***Under the Wave off Kanagawa*, from the series *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*** **(2 Term)**

Under the Wave off Kanagawa on display at this exhibition clearly shows color-classified clouds in the sky as well as precisely rendered expressions of the shadows cast by the white wave and the water spray spilling from the wave head.



Katsushika Hokusai
Under the Wave off Kanagawa, from the series
Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji,
The Sumida Hokusai Museum collection (2 Term)



◆ **Comparison of examples in different states of printing plus a variation of *Rainstorm Beneath the Summit* from the series *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji* (1 Term)**

In this example (upper left, no.3), which is close to the first edition, the lightning at the lower right in particular is clearly rendered using sharp lines. Also, a variation being exhibited for the first time (lower left, no.5) has an image of a pine wood added to the skirts of the mountain.



③ *Rainstorm Beneath the Summit*, from the series *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*
④ *Rainstorm Beneath the Summit*, from the series *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji* (Later Impression)
⑤ *Rainstorm Beneath the Summit*, from the series *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji* (Variant Edition)
*the first public exhibition

*All Katsushika Hokusai's work *All the Sumida Hokusai Museum collection
*All exhibition period: 1 Term

A *Tour of the Waterfalls in Various Provinces and Remarkable Views of Bridges in Various Provinces*

A Tour of the Waterfalls in Various Provinces is a series of *nishiki-e* depicting waterfalls throughout Japan and it is thought to have consisted of eight prints. Ranging from large cataracts and falls pouring down with great force to moderate streams of water trickling gently over the surfaces of rocks, the series captures a wide variety of the forms taken by water.

Published following this series was the *Remarkable Views of Bridges in Various Provinces* series. As its Japanese title suggests, the series presents landscapes with famous bridges, but the eleven examples include one bridge in an unknown location and others that had already been lost by the time of Hokusai.

◆ ***Amidagataki Falls in the Far Reaches of the Kiso Road*, from the series *A Tour of the Waterfalls in Various Provinces* (no.6, 1 Term)**

This vigorous waterfall is captured from the front, but its round mouth is depicted with shimmering ripples as if it was being viewed from above.



◆ ***The Suspension Bridge on the Border of Hida and Etchū Provinces, from the series Remarkable Views of Bridges in Various Provinces (no.7, 2 Term)***

According to its title, it is thought that Hokusai depicted from his imagination a suspension bridge somewhere along the borders between Hida and Etchū or Echizen provinces (the present Gifu and Toyama or Fukui Prefectures). The scene is notable for the small figures crossing the curving suspension bridge while exquisitely maintaining their balance despite the absence of handrails.



⑥ Amidagataki Falls in the Far Reaches of the Kiso Road, from the series *A Tour of the Waterfalls in Various Provinces* (1 Term)

⑦ *The Suspension Bridge on the Border of Hida and Etchū Provinces, from the series Remarkable Views of Bridges in Various Provinces* (2 Term)

*All Katsushika Hokusai's work *All the Sumida Hokusai Museum collection

Highlight 3

The Scenery on Both Banks of the Sumida River, a picture scroll of almost seven meters in length, will be on display throughout the exhibition.

The *Scenery on Both Banks of the Sumida River* is a picture scroll with an overall length of almost seven meters that was painted by Hokusai. Its whereabouts had been unknown for about a century, but the rediscovered work was acquired by Sumida City in 2015 and is now in the collection of the Sumida Hokusai Museum.

This 639.9-centimeter brush-drawn painting by Hokusai depicts the scenery along both banks of the Sumida River from Ryōgokubashi Bridge to Shin-Yoshiwara, the licensed pleasure quarter in Edo, as well as scenes of the entertainments on offer in this quarter. The scroll also includes a *kyōbun* or comic prose work by Utei Enba^{*3}, the commissioner of this work. His text mentioning the famous places in the painting occupies the remaining 76.1 centimeters of the scroll.

This huge work is being exhibited at the Sumida Hokusai Museum for the first time in five years since it was last put on view in 2016. It will be displayed throughout the exhibition period by changing the scenes between the first and second terms.



Details from the first half of *Scenery on Both Banks of the Sumida River*



Details from the second half of *Scenery on Both Banks of the Sumida*



Katsushika Hokusai, *Scenery on Both Banks of the Sumida River*, The Sumida Hokusai Museum collection, All Terms (first half: 1 Term, second half: 2 Term)

***3 Utei Enba (1743-1822)**

Enba was a popular novelist in the middle to late Edo period and is also known as a raconteur who was responsible for the revival of *rakugo*, a form of comic storytelling. Calling Hokusai his best friend, Enba had a close relationship with him.

In addition, this exhibition will showcase about a hundred works in total, including *nishiki-e* and privately commissioned *surimono* prints as well as block books, all of which are worthy of being described as “Hokusai at his best,” and the Sumida Hokusai Museum is proud to be able to exhibit them to the public.

Exhibition Overview

■ **Exhibition title**

THE HOKUSAI —Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji and A Long-Lost Picture Scroll

■ **Period** | July 20th - September 26th, 2021

1 Term | July 20th (Tue) -August 22nd (Sun)

2 Term | August 24th (Tue) -September 26th (Sun)

Closed | Every Monday

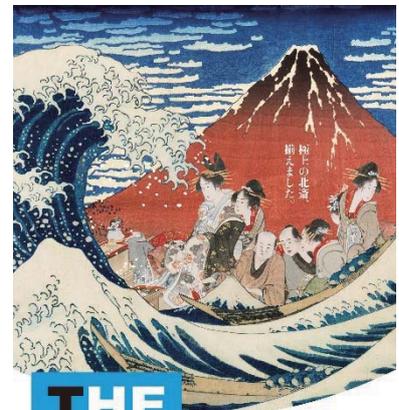
or on the following day if it is a national holiday

Open: August 9th (Mon), September 20th (Mon)

Closed: August 10th (Tue), September 21st (Tue)

■ **Hours** | 9:30-17:30 (last admission 17:00)

■ **Organizers** | Sumida City, The Sumida Hokusai Museum



In order to prevent the spread of new coronavirus infection, there is a possibility that the sessions, opening hours, admission fees, events, lectures, etc. may be changed or canceled. Please check the Sumida Hokusai Museum's official website for details before visiting.



■ Admission Fees

	Adults	H.S / Univ. Students	65 and over	J.H.S Students	Disabled peoples	Elementary school students
Individual	¥1,200	¥900	¥900	¥400	¥400	Free
Group	¥960	¥720	¥720	¥320	¥320	Free

Not available for advance tickets and group discounts.

Junior high, 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 discount 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 AURORA (Permanent Exhibition Room), too.



■ Address

2-7-2 Kamezawa, Sumida-ku, Tokyo

TEL 03-6658-8936 (9 : 30~17 : 30)

<https://hokusai-museum.jp/thehokusai2021/>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/HokusaiMuseum>

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

■ Access

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

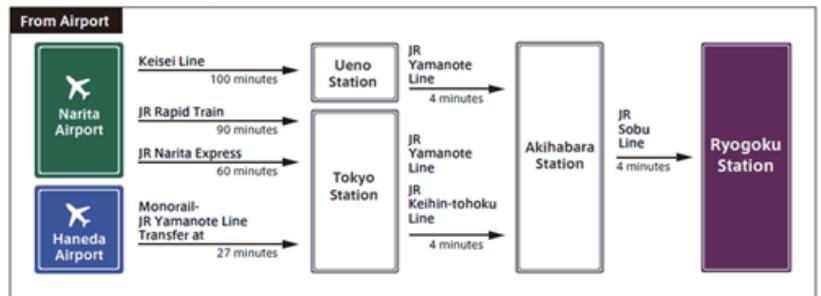
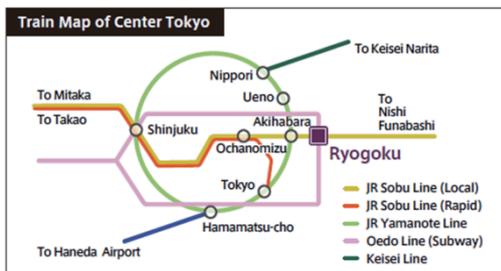
*9-minute walk from JR Sobu Line Ryogoku Station East exit

*5-minute by Sumida Loop Bus from the JR Sobu Line Kinshicho Station North exit

■ The Sumida Hokusai Museum measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19

Request of visitors for cooperation on COVID-19 infection prevention

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

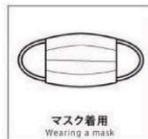


The Sumida Hokusai Museum measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19

Requests of visitors for cooperation on COVID-19 infection Prevention

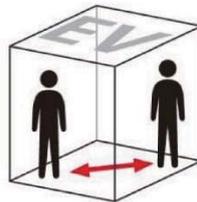
1. We will carry out temperature measurements before entering the museum. Please refrain from visiting if you have a cough, sore throat, fever, fatigue, etc.
2. Please disinfect your hands and fingers when entering the building. We have an alcohol disinfectant at the entrance of the building.
3. Please do not touch the display case in the exhibition room.
4. Please refrain from talking in the exhibition room.
5. You can touch by hand the touch screen panel and the wood-block printed books on the 4th floor AURORA (permanent exhibition room) and permanent exhibition room plus. Please disinfect your hands and fingers before and after viewing them.
6. Please wearing a mask.
7. Please cover your mouth with a mask, handkerchief, tissue, etc. when coughing or sneezing.
8. The passengers in the elevator are limited to 2 people. However, families and caregivers can use it together.

お客様へご協力のお願い
 Notice: About infection prevention measures of COVID-19
 Request for cooperation



エレベーターご利用の際のお願い
 Requests when using the elevator
 About infection prevention measures of COVID-19

新型コロナウイルス感染拡大防止の観点から当面の間、
 エレベーターの定員を2名に制限しております。
 The elevator is limited to 2 people.



但し、ご家族や介助者の方は、ご一緒にご利用いただけます。
 However, families and caregivers can use it together.

展示室内でのお願い
 Request in the Exhibition room
 About infection prevention measures of COVID-19

他のお客様と距離を空けて
 ご鑑賞ください
 Please keep a distance 2m



展示室内での会話は
 お控えください
 Please refrain from talking



展示室内の人数が密とならないよう
 入場制限を行います
 Admission restrictions



Our efforts to prevent coronavirus infection.

1. The space used by customers has already been disinfected. Water and alcohol cannot be used in some of the display cases, only dry wipe is carried out.
2. Handrails, elevator buttons, toilet-handle, and tap, are disinfected several times a day.
3. Our staff at the museum who come in contact with visitors, wear masks.
4. We have installed a virus splash prevention panel at the reception / museum shop.
5. In order to keep a good environment in the building, we may restrict admission, and the staff speaks to the customer to call attention.
6. MARUGEN100 (lecture room) and Library: continuing to be closed.
7. We do not accept new reservations for the use of MARUGEN100 (lecture room) and group viewing.

*Please check the Sumida Hokusai Museum official website for details before visiting.

■ For further Inquiries

THE HOKUSAI Public Relations Office (YOUTH PLANNING CENTER, INC.)

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