

Special Exhibition
Theater, Dance, Music
— Enjoy the Edo Performing Arts with Hokusai
Mar 19 - May 26, 2024

2024 Ukiyo-e exhibition

March 14th, 2024 / The Sumida Hokusai Museum TOKYO,



While he has now earned world-wide acclaim, Hokusai too was once a novice, just getting his start. In his early art works, he has created a large volume of works related to the theater, including music and dance. This exhibition presents works that make us appreciate Hokusai’s deep connections to the theater, including actor prints from his Shunrō period, privately commissioned prints created as invitations to musical and other performances, and his depiction of the “sparrow dance” and its incorporation in many craft objects. Through these many works, please enjoy his vast-ranging oeuvre!

Special Exhibition Theater, Dance, Music -Enjoy the Edo Performing Arts with Hokusai

◎Term: March 19, 2024(Tue.) - May 26, 2024(Sun.), 2024

- The First term: Mar. 19 – Apr. 21
- The Second term: Apr.23 – May 26
- *Some exhibits will be changed during the period.

◎Open: Tuesday - Sunday (Except National Holidays: Apr.29 and May 6)

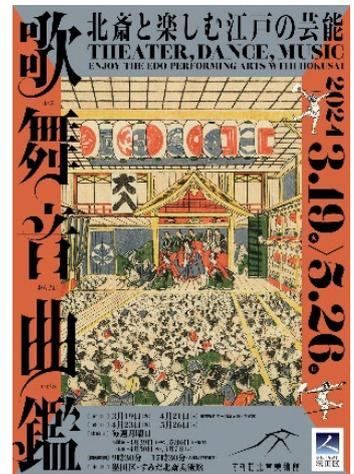
◎Hours: 9:30am -5:30pm (Last admission 5:00 pm)

◎Closed: Mondays 【Apr 30 (Tue), May 7 (Tue)】

*If Monday is a holiday, open Monday and closed the following Tuesday.

◎Organizers: Sumida city, The Sumida Hokusai Museum

◎Official Exhibition Website: <https://hokusai-museum.jp/KabuonyokuEN/>



Exhibition Highlights

Act 1 When Hokusai Was Creating Actor Portraits

The Edo Theater District

Until the Edo theater district was moved to Asakusa in 1842, during the Tenpō Reforms, it was in the center of the city, in Sakai-cha and Fukiya-chō (now the Nihonbashi Ningyō-chō neighborhood of Tokyo) and Kobiki-chō (now the eastern Ginza neighborhood).

Perspective Picture: A Grand Kabuki Performance in the Eastern Capital
Katsushika Hokusai
The Sumida Hokusai Museum
(The 1st term)



The Katsukawa School and the Actor Prints by Shunrō

Hokusai joined the Katsukawa School and was apprenticed to Katsukawa Shunshō at about the age of nineteen. Shunshō, who, with Ippitsusai Bunchō (n.d.), published *Theater Fans, an Illustrated Book* and earned great popularity for his realistic depictions of Kabuki actors, was the founder of the Katsukawa School. Under Shunshō's tutelage, Hokusai had experience in creating not just actor prints but a great variety of work.

First Public Exhibition



(Left)
Sakai-cho,
from *The Fine Views of the Eastern Capital at a Glance. Vol. 2*
Katsushika Hokusai
The Sumida Hokusai Museum (All terms)

(Right)
Segawa Kikunojō III as a Shirabyōshi
Katsushika Hokusai
The Sumida Hokusai Museum (The 2nd term)



Act 2 Hokusai and the Edo Performing Arts

The World of Privately Commissioned Prints for Special Events

Between the Kansei era (1789-1801) and the Bunka era (1804-18), Hokusai created many *surimono*, privately commissioned prints not for sale. The large prints produced for events such as recitals or announcements of succession to a stage name were printed on a full-sized sheet of *hōsho* paper and folded in half. One half had the picture, the other the text. Most of the extant works have the text side cut off, retaining only the picture. Full versions that also include the text are quite rare.



Dance in the Japanese Room
Katsushika Hokusai
The Sumida Hokusai Museum (The 2nd term)

 **The Popularity of Jōruri Chanting and the World of Mixed Verses on Jōruri, Illustrated**

The popularity of Jōruri inspired the emergence of many amateur participants. In this act we explore the popularity of Jōruri chanting and the long-beloved *Mixed Verses on Jōruri, Illustrated*, which contains many famous Jōruri chants.



The Scene of San'kichi Being Impolite to Shigenoi, Koinyōbō Somewake Tazuna, from the Picture Book with Mixed Verses on Jōruri, Illustrated
Katsushika Hokusai
The Sumida Hokusai Museum (The 1st term)

Act3 A Variety of Dances

 **Visual Delight: A Varied Dance Lineup**

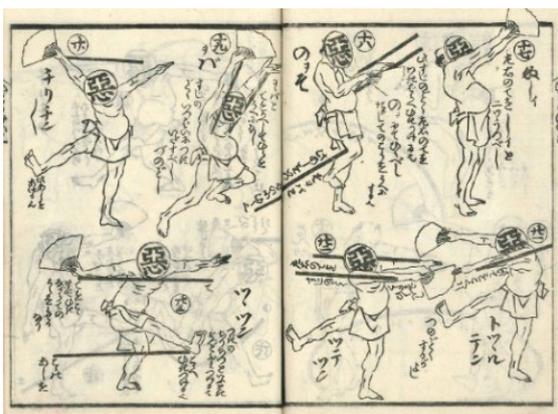
Hokusai created many depictions of people dancing. Among them, his "sparrow dance" design must have been a popular motif, because it has been used on plates, bowls, decorative hairpins, and other everyday items.



Sparrow Dance
Katsushika Hokusai
The Sumida Hokusai Museum (The 1st term)

 **Dance and Rejoice: Teach Yourself**

The *Dance Instruction Manual* is both a drawing manual and a manual for learning to dance. The movements of the body are accurately depicted, with instructions on how to move added here and there.



The Bad Guy Dance, from the Dance Instruction Manual
Katsushika Hokusai
The Sumida Hokusai Museum (All terms)



(Right)
Dance
Katsushika Hokusai
The Sumida Hokusai Museum
(All terms)

The Final Segment: Hokusai and the Theater

In this last scene, we explore Hokusai's connections to the theater through records of theater-going and works from his final years.

Katsushika Hokusai



Keisai Eisen, *Hokusai portrait*,
National Diet Library

Japanese *Ukiyo-e* artist Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849) was born in Sumida, Tokyo. It is said that Hokusai moved more than 90 times during his 90-year life, spending most of his lifetime in Sumida, and left many works depicting the scenery of Sumida, including Ryōgoku Bridge, Mimeguri Shrine, and Ushijima Shrine. He vividly captured life in the Edo Period and is best known for the series “*Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*” which includes representative Japan’s most iconic artwork “*Under the Wave off Kanagawa*”, known internationally as *The Great wave*. His fascinating life and varied works spanning more than 70 years are more highly regarded today than ever, 160 years after his death. Today, he and his works are in the limelight as one of the most acclaimed artists in the world.

Museum

The Sumida Hokusai Museum is the “growing museum” that provides information about Hokusai and his students to the local community and the world!

Open : Tuesday - Sunday

9:30am-5:30pm (Last admission 5:00pm)

Closed : Mondays

(The following day if it is a national holiday)

New Year holidays: December 29 - January 1

Address : 2-7-2 Kamezawa, Sumida-ku, Tokyo, 130-0014

Tel : 03-6658-8936

Official website: <https://hokusai-museum.jp/>

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



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For more information and images

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