

Real and Imagined: Japanese Warrior Prints, December 7, 2018-May 5, 2019

CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi, Japanese, 1839-1892

Akiyama Buemon, Japanese

Dawn Moon and Tumbling Snow: Kobayashi Heihachirō (Seppu no gyōgetsu: Kobayashi Heihachirō), *Dawn Moon and Tumbling Snow: Kobayashi Heihachirō (Seppu no gyōgetsu: Kobayashi Heihachirō)*, 1886

Polychrome woodblock print

Gift of Isaac C. Bates 97.017

In this scene from the play *The Treasury of Loyal Retainers* (Kanadehon Chūshingura), Yoshitoshi unexpectedly portrays a defender of the villain rather than one of the heroes celebrated in the title. Here the warrior Kobayashi Heihachirō—disguised in his nurse's kimono—bravely defends his master, Moronao.



Indian

Portrait of a Lady, Portrait of a Lady, 1600s

Ink and watercolor on paper

Museum Appropriation Fund 17.478

In this miniature painting, a woman holds a tiny wine cup in one hand and a bottle in the other. She wears a cap and jeweled headband customary of Mughal aristocrats and is adorned with pearls and rubies. The artist has positioned her in profile view at a jharokha, a balcony at the side of a building. This format, popularized by the Mughal emperors, often featured a carpet hanging over the balcony and a tapestry rolled at the top.



RISD MUSEUM

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi, Japanese, 1839-1892

Akiyama Buemon, Japanese

Yamamoto Shōun, Japanese, 1870-1965

Moon at Mount Inaba (Inabayama no tsuki), Moon at Mount Inaba (Inabayama no tsuki), 1885.12.10

Polychrome woodblock print

Bequest of Isaac C. Bates 13.1376

Famous warriors are just one of the subjects depicted in Tsukioka Yoshitoshi's series *One Hundred Aspects of the Moon*. In this scene he captures the military leader Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1537–1598) scaling Mount Inaba to infiltrate the Saitō clan castle at the top. In the 1567 siege, Hideyoshi successfully penetrated the castle from its unguarded rear, opening the front gates for the troops of his lord, Oda Nobunaga (1534–1582).



Katsukawa Shunshō, Japanese, 1725-1792

The Actor Ichikawa Danzō IV as Hata no Daizen, The Actor Ichikawa Danzō IV as Hata no Daizen, 1780's

Polychrome woodblock print

Gift of Mrs. Gustav Radeke 20.1098

This print—the left half of a diptych—features the actor Ichikawa Danzō IV playing the role of Hata no Daizen in the play *Uta kurabe tō sei moyō*. The actor, famous for his acrobatics and dramatic presentations, is depicted here as an imposing figure armed with a pair of double swords.



Tsukioka Yoshitoshi, Japanese, 1839-1892

Komiyama Shohei

Gentoku Visits Kōmei in a Snowstorm (Gentoku fūsetsu ni Komei o otonau), Gentoku Visits Kōmei in a Snowstorm (Gentoku fūsetsu ni Komei o otonau), 1883



RISD MUSEUM

Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Paula and Leonard Granoff 85.197.15

The Romance of the Three Kingdoms, a 14th-century Chinese epic centered on the power struggles between regional warlords and their retainers, became the source of inspiration for many Japanese print artists. In this triptych, Yoshitoshi depicts a scene in which the warlord Gentoku calls on military strategist Kōmei to join his cause. Gentoku (astride his horse at left) is accompanied by his sworn brothers, the generals Kan U and Chōhi (center). Framed by the round window, Kōmei sits in quiet contemplation.

Indian
Vilaval Ragini, Vilaval Ragini, 1700s
ink and color on paper
Anonymous gift 17.476

In this intimate scene a young female heroine (*nayika*) adjusts her necklace in front of a mirror, awaiting the arrival of her lover. An illustration from the *Garland of Musical Modes* (*Ragamala*), these scenes are designed to visualize music and poetry, evoking the mood associated with a particular musical mode (*raga*). Depicted here is a *raga* in the female mode, a *ragini**, personified by the expectant young woman.



Toyohara Chikanobu, Japanese, 1838-1912
Tsutsumi Kichibei, Japanese
Yamada Yukimoto, Japanese
Battle at Shizugatake: Katō Toranosuke and Yamaji Shōgen
(*Shizugatake kassen: Katō Toranosuke Yamaji Shōgen*), *Battle at Shizugatake: Katō Toranosuke and Yamaji Shōgen* (*Shizugatake kassen: Katō Toranosuke Yamaji Shōgen*), ca. 1897
Polychrome woodblock print
Gift of Paula and Leonard Granoff 85.197.13

In this historical depiction, Chikanobu captures an epic fight between two warriors during the Battle of Shizugatake in 1583. With unparalleled strength, they grapple with each other even as they tumble off the edge of a cliff.



RISD MUSEUM

Mizuno Toshikata, Japanese, 1866-1908

Katada Chojiro, Japanese

Hori Tatsu, Japanese

Two Heroes Battle at the Foot of Liangshan (Ryōzanpaku no fūmoto ni ryōketsu yu o arasō), Two Heroes Battle at the Foot of Liangshan (Ryōzanpaku no fūmoto ni ryōketsu yu o arasō), 1890's

Polychrome woodblock print

Gift of Paula and Leonard Granoff 85.197.22



Yōshi the blue-faced beast (seen on the left) and Rinchū, the Panther Head (on the right) are two heroes in the popular Chinese novel *Water Margin* (*Suikoden*), a tale of righteous outlaws fighting against *injustice*. The encounter shown here depicts them testing their skills against each other. The chief of the outlaw band watches from a distance to determine whether the two are worthy to join their cause.

Utagawa Kuniyoshi, Japanese, 1797-1861

Fujiokaya Keijirō (Shōrindō), Japanese

The last stand of the Kusunoki at Shijō-nawate (Nanke yūshi shijō-nawate nite uchijini), The last stand of the Kusunoki at Shijō-nawate (Nanke yūshi shijō-nawate nite uchijini), 1847-1852

Polychrome woodblock print

Gift of Mrs. Gustav Radeke 20.1312



In this battle scene, the printmaker Utagawa Kuniyoshi imagines the 1348 Battle of Shijō-nawate, which pitted the Kusunoki clan against a gigantic enemy force. Despite being outnumbered, the Kusunoki heroes engaged their assailants until the end. This dynamic triptych captures their courage and resolve as they fight amidst a barrage of flying arrows.

Toyohara Kunichika, Japanese, 1835-1900

Hayashi Kichizo, Japanese

Actors in the play Benkei in the Boat (Funa Benkei): Ichikawa Sadanji (Benkei); Ichikawa Ebizo VIII (Minamoto Yoshitsune), Nakamura Shikan IV (Funaosa Mihodayu) and Ichikawa Danjurō IX (Taira Tomomori, Actors in the play Benkei in the Boat (Funa Benkei): Ichikawa Sadanji (Benkei); Ichikawa Ebizo VIII (Minamoto Yoshitsune), Nakamura Shikan IV (Funaosa Mihodayu) and Ichikawa Danjurō IX (Taira Tomomori), 1875

Polychrome woodblock print



RISD MUSEUM

Gift of Paula and Leonard Granoff 85.197.23

This triptych illustrates the play *Funa Benkei*, which tells the tale of the warrior Minamoto no Yoshitsune's sea voyage after he flees the capital. Yoshitsune and his entourage are besieged by the angry ghosts of the slain Taira clan warriors, but his loyal companion, Benkei, depicted at the center, valiantly defends his master.

Kobayashi Kiyochika, Japanese, 1847-1915

Scouts near Niuzhuang on a Snowy Night (Gyūsō fukin setsuya no sekkō), *Scouts near Niuzhuang on a Snowy Night (Gyūsō fukin setsuya no sekkō)*, ca. 1895

Polychrome woodblock print

Gift of Roger S. Keyes and Elizabeth Coombs 1998.72.2



Kobayashi Kiyochika, known for his atmospheric depictions and night scenes, masterfully describes an evening patrol during the Sino-Japanese War. Silhouetted in shades of gray and flecked with snowflakes, the scouts carry out their duties amidst the falling snow.

Utagawa Hiroshige, Japanese, 1797-1858

Utagawa Kuniyoshi, Japanese, 1797-1861

Yoshimiya Sonokichi, Japanese

Sugawa Renkichi, Japanese

Minamoto no Yoritomo: offering at the Great Buddha (Minamoto Yoritomo Daibutsu kuyō no zu), *Minamoto no Yoritomo: offering at the Great Buddha (Minamoto Yoritomo Daibutsu kuyō no zu)*, 1843-1847

Polychrome woodblock print

Gift of Mrs. Gustav Radeke 20.1296



This print envisages a famous Kabuki play. At center, the warrior Taira no Kagekiyo (d. 1196) wields a long pole blade (*naginata*). He is waiting outside the Great Buddha Hall at Tōdaiji to assassinate his nemesis, Minamoto no Yoritomo (1147–1199), the founder and first shogun of the Kamakura Shogunate, a military feudal government that ruled Japan until 1333.

Two print artists with distinct areas of expertise collaborated on this triptych: Kuniyoshi depicted the figures and Hiroshige created the landscape.

RISD MUSEUM

Ogata Gekkō, Japanese, 1859-1920

Matsuno Yoneijiro, Japanese

The First Army Advancing on Fengtienfu (Daiichigun hōtenfu shingeki no zu), The First Army Advancing on Fengtienfu (Daiichigun hōtenfu shingeki no zu), 1894

Polychrome woodblock print

Bequest of Isaac C. Bates 13.2335



Although the Chinese city of Fengtian (modern day Shenyang) was a targeted conquest in the Sino-Japanese War, peace negotiations prevented the Japanese from attacking. Ogata Gekkō, an artist who never went to the front, constructed this depiction of a much-anticipated battle that did not transpire.