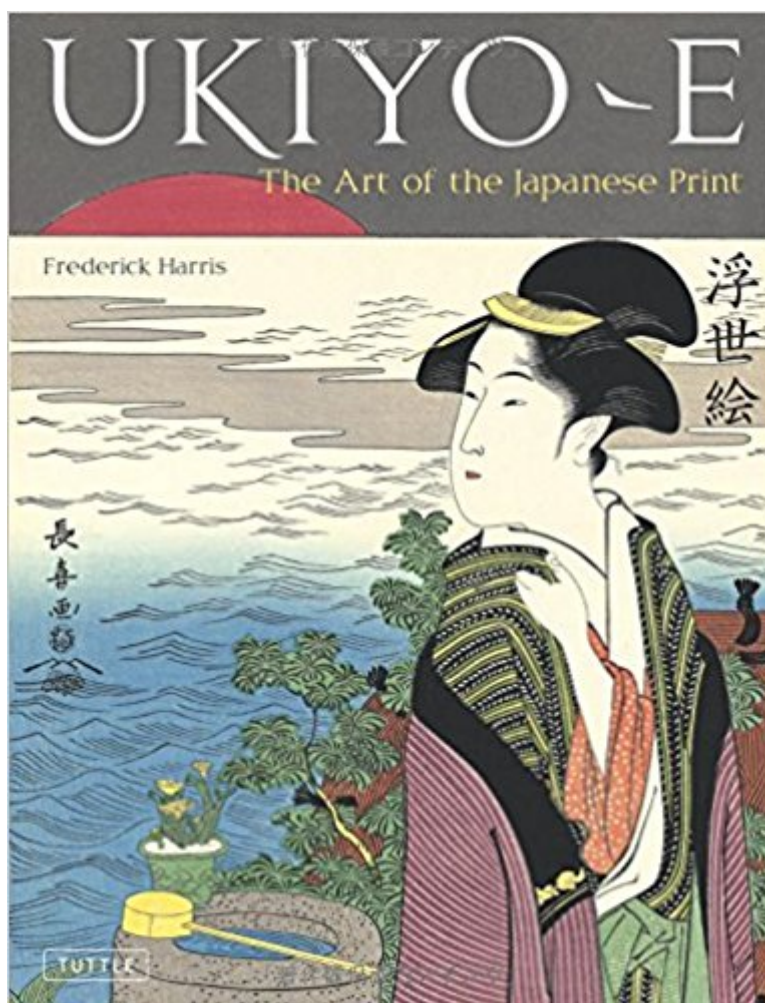


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Ukiyo-e: The Art Of The Japanese Print



Synopsis

The art of Japanese woodblock printing, known as ukiyo-e ("pictures of the floating world"), reflects the rich history and way of life in Japan hundreds of years ago. *Ukiyo-e: The Art of the Japanese Print* takes a thematic approach to this iconic Japanese art form, considering prints by subject matter: geisha and courtesans, kabuki actors, sumo wrestlers, erotica, nature, historical subjects and even images of foreigners in Japan. An artist himself, author Frederick Harris— a well-known American collector who lived in Japan for 50 years— pays special attention to the methods and materials employed in Japanese printmaking. The book traces the evolution of ukiyo-e from its origins in metropolitan Edo (Tokyo) art culture as black and white illustrations, to delicate two-color prints and multicolored designs. Advice to admirers on how to collect, care for, view and buy Japanese ukiyo-e woodblock prints rounds out this book of charming, carefully selected prints.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I was immediately drawn to this handsome book, and my expectation of a fine journey into the floating world pictures became fulfilled. First, the color reproductions of Frederick Harris's high-quality choices give a good sense of the way woodblock prints appear in life. Second, his writing is clear, welcoming, deeply informed, and well organized. The stated aim of Frederick Harris was to appeal to a new generation of art lovers and collectors. He appears to have hit the target. This is a wonderfully worthy effort and result— a true labor of love." —*Maine Antique Digest* "A unique book on Japanese ukiyo-e woodblock prints, and one that is essential reading for all collectors, cultural historians and anyone intrigued by this endlessly fascinating subject!"

"This is a fine and passionate contribution to the vast literature on the Japanese print." Alexandra Munroe, Samsung Senior Curator of Asian Art, Guggenheim Museum
 "Created by an artist and interior designer, Ukiyo-e: The Art of the Japanese Print directly reflects the sensitive eye and professional polish of its author."
 Kendall H. Brown, Professor of Asian Art History, California State University, Long Beach
 "An excellent book for someone just first getting into Japanese prints. It goes into fuller detail than many other books do as to the block-carving and printing process itself, including brilliant photos of the chisels and baren and how they were used, and of a key block and its resulting printed image, visually demonstrating the process beautifully," Nubui Kuduchi blog
 "This book will appeal to anyone who's interested in traditional Japanese culture."
 Tokyo 5 blog
 "Illustrated with only the choicest selections, Harris's book arranges them by subject rather than chronology or artist, breaking down what can be a very confusing area of work, and highlighting the key issues and players"
 Tokyo Jinja blog

Frederick Harris is an artist who has lived in Japan for over fifty years. Raised in New York City, he attended a special high school for students talented in art and music before pursuing further art education at various colleges in the US. At the Art Students League he was introduced to the Japanese woodblock print by the well-known printmaker Martin Lewis. After serving in the armed forces in Korea, he moved to Japan to establish an art studio. He currently resides in Tokyo with his Japanese wife.

This is a splendid book. I was very pleasantly surprised by its quality. The reproductions that accompany the text clearly illustrate what the author is discussing. The color reproductions are numerous, beautiful and well positioned. The text is lucid and to the point, not tedious or obtuse. The book is organized in a very interestingly - in a novel manner that makes the subject come to life. For me it was a delightful informative introduction to Ukiyo-e. I highly recommend it.

I've several books on Ukiyo-e, but like this one due to its thematic development, and the broad range of topics, including the later ukiyo-e with foreigners! Even though I've read several books on ukiyo-e by different masters and on different topics, I found this much more informative, and now understand several repeated characters, themes, and symbols much better than I did before.

A fun light primer for the subject, the author has the voice of a charming old eccentric. The book is

more like a conversation with an expert than a dense treatise. He handles a wide swathe of subjects, so be mindful of the naughty chapter.

I own many books on Japanese Wood Block Prints but this is one of the best. It not only has great color prints but with each of them the author's analysis of that print which often includes a broader historical perspective. He does it in a format that is not overwhelming and manageable for those of us that are not scholars but just have a passion for the prints.

This book does a nice introductory job of the subject. The commentary is well written, paper quality is excellent as is the printing and reproduction quality the artwork.

I got this book for its beautiful reproductions of Japanese prints, and was not disappointed. It does contain some explicit prints, if that is going to bother you, but they are a part of the history of this art form.

A superior book on Ukiyo-E prints.

Very nice book BUT almost all pages were stuck together. All but three could be separated easily - the three adherent pages that could not resulted in defects to one of the two adherent pages - small in two cases but substantial in one.

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