Seven Masters
20th-Century Japanese Woodblock Prints
TRAVELING EXHIBITION SERVICE
INTERNATIONAL ARTS AND ARTISTS
“A desire to... capture the dynamic, modern life of Japan gave rise to an art movement known as shin hanga, the ‘new print.’”

Dr. Andreas Marks, Curator

As the once-isolated nation of Japan entered the 20th century and began to assimilate a new, Westernized culture, demand for certain traditional handicrafts fell off significantly—among them, the iconic woodblock prints known in the West as ukiyo-e. Publishers and artists slowed production and created fewer new designs. Yet what seemed at first to be the death-knell of a unique art form without parallel in the world turned out to be the dawning of another—as the path was cleared for a new kind of print: shin hanga.

The exhibition Seven Masters: 20th-Century Japanese Woodblock Prints focuses on seven artists who played a significant role in the development of the "new print," and whose works boldly exemplify this new movement. Drawing from the superb collection at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the exhibition features the spectacular beauty portraits of the artists Hashiguchi Goyō (1880–1921), Itō Shinsui (1898–1972), Yamakawa Shūhō (1898–1944), and Torii Kotondo (1900–1976); striking images of kabuki actors by Yamamura Kōka (Toyonari) (1886–1942) and Natori Shunsen (1886–1960); as well as the evocative landscapes of Kawase Hasui (1883–1957).

These multi-talented artists were all successful painters as well, but this exhibition looks exclusively at their unrivaled work in print design, and includes a cache of pencil drawings and rare printing proofs to offer insight into the exacting process of woodblock printing.

EXHIBITION SPECIFICATIONS

Number of Works
There are two versions of the exhibition, each containing 75 comparable works of art, including woodblock prints and drawings

Organized by
Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN

Curator
Andreas Marks, PhD, the Mary Griggs Burke Curator of Japanese and Korean Art

Requirements
High security; 300–350 linear feet

Shipping
IA&A makes all arrangements; exhibitors pay outgoing shipping costs within the contiguous US

Booking Period
12 weeks

Tour
January 2020–January 2022

Publication
Seven Masters: 20th-Century Japanese Woodblock Prints from the Wells Collection by Andreas Marks, with essays by Chiaki Aijôka, Ishida Yasuhito, Yuiko Kimura-Tilford, Amy Reigle Newland, Charles Walbridge, Matthew Welsh, and Yano Haruyo

Educational Materials
In development