

PRIMITIVE UKIYO-E

Early woodblock prints from the James A. Michener Collection are showcased in an elegant new art book



Although the woodblock prints produced primarily in Edo (old Tokyo) from the 1670s to the 1760s were later labeled "primitive," many are works of grace and sophistication never surpassed by subsequent artists. *Ukiyo-e* (literally "floating world picture") was defined by 17th-century writer Asai Ryoi as "living only for the moment, gazing at the moon, snow, cherry blossoms and autumn leaves, enjoying wine, women and song and just drifting along the current of life like a gourd floating down a river." The James A. Michener Collection, containing thousands of Japanese prints, is in the care of the Honolulu Academy of Arts on permanent loan. *Primitive Ukiyo-e*, a new book co-published by the academy and The University Press of Hawaii, is the first in a projected series leading to a complete catalogue of the collection. The book was prepared by Howard A. Link with the assistance of Juzo Suzuki and Roger S. Keyes.



浪東彦吉
 津川みどり

Far left: Guests, geisha and courtesans amuse themselves by playing games, dancing, listening to music, drinking and sleeping in a teahouse.

Left: A character in a Kabuki play has just balanced several blocks on a pillow. The plays and matinee idols of the popular Kabuki theatre inspired many prints of the period.

鳥居清倍筆板本所中鳴屋

Two characters confront one another in the presence of an imperial messenger over the disappearance of a treasure, in a scene from a play performed in 1711.





An eagle looks down at a monkey who hopes to slip away unnoticed.

鳥居清信筆



Two women and a man are shown here in a print from the mid-1680s titled "Lovers."



A character appears dressed in disguise, in a dance sequence from a theatrical production in 1763. The actor, his role and the dance title are identified on the print.

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By Victor Lipman

Nainoa Thompson, who navigated *Hokule'a* to and from Tahiti earlier this year, is the first Hawaiian in centuries to navigate a canoe the way his ancestors did.

On the cover: Nainoa Thompson navigating *Hokule'a*, illustrated by Anthony Gruerio based on a photograph by Chad Baybayan.

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