



BRUCE MUSEUM
1 Museum Drive • Greenwich, CT

FLOATING BEAUTY:

ADVERTISEMENT AS ART

Floating Beauty: Women in the Art of Ukiyo-e, an exhibition of woodblock prints from Edo period Japan, is currently on view at the Bruce Museum. The Edo time period, 1603-1868, saw an explosion of arts and culture in Japan, particularly in the pleasure, or “floating,” districts of large cities. Woodblock prints were enjoyed by Japanese citizens from many different social classes, from wealthy merchants to hard-working peasants. The artists who made these prints used famous locations, Kabuki theater, and classic poems as their inspiration for their images. Not only are they beautiful but the prints were also used to popularize textile patterns and tourist sites around Japan. Today we can take a trip back in time as we view these prints, putting ourselves in the mindset of a visitor to the floating district of Edo period Tokyo over 300 years ago.



UTAGAWA KUNISADA (JAPANESE, 1786 – 1865), THE SACRED TREE (SAKAKI), 1853, INK ON PAPER, 14 3/4 x 10 1/8 INCHES, GIFT, MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR G. BAILEY, 1957.68.4.4. READING PUBLIC MUSEUM, READING, PENNSYLVANIA.

Now It's Your Turn!



The artwork showcased in Floating Beauty inspired many artists, like Van Gogh, Mary Cassatt, and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, to reconsider the way they used the space on their paper and their color choices. Using these prints as inspiration you can create a print of your own. You will need: a piece of Styrofoam (from food packaging or used as insulation in a package), a pencil with a sharp tip, tempera paint, paint brushes, water, paper towel, and blank paper. Using the tip of the pencil, draw lightly on the foam and create the picture you want to print. Once you are satisfied with your image go over it again and press down hard – sinking the tip of your pencil into the foam. Paint your incised foam block lightly with the colors you want your print to have. Place your paper on a flat surface, pick up your inked foam block, and press the painted side down firmly on your paper. When you lift it up you will be left with your print. Clean the paint off the Styrofoam and you can use it over and over again, even deepening your lines if you think they are too shallow.



KITAGAWA UTAMARO (JAPANESE, 1753 – 1806), COURTESAN HANAOGI IN OGIYA WITH ATTENDANT, 18TH CENTURY, INK ON PAPER, 14 3/4 x 10 1/8 INCHES, MUSEUM PURCHASE, 1928.30.1. READING PUBLIC MUSEUM, READING, PENNSYLVANIA.



Common Core State Standard:

Standard: ELA: Literacy: R.L. 3-3-5.3, R.L. 3-7-6.7, R.L. 3-1-5.1, R.L. 6-4-8.4, R.H. 6-8.4, R.H. 6-8.7

GET
Creative!