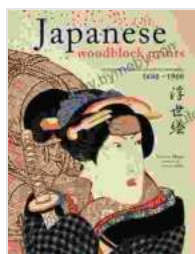


Japanese Woodblock Prints: Artists, Publishers, and Masterworks 1680 – 1900

Immerse yourself in the captivating world of Japanese woodblock prints, a testament to the artistry, skill, and cultural heritage of Japan.



Japanese Woodblock Prints: Artists, Publishers and Masterworks: 1680 - 1900 by Andreas Marks

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 59763 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 899 pages



This comprehensive and richly illustrated book takes you on a journey through the history of this revered art form, from its humble beginnings to its golden age of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Explore the lives and works of renowned artists such as **Katsushika Hokusai**, revered for his iconic "Great Wave off Kanagawa," and **Utagawa Hiroshige**, celebrated for his exquisite landscapes. Discover the role of publishers in commissioning, distributing, and promoting these prints.

With over 350 stunning full-color reproductions, the book showcases a breathtaking range of masterworks, from delicate landscapes to vibrant portraits of courtesans and kabuki actors.

The Origins and Development of Woodblock Printing

The origins of woodblock printing in Japan can be traced back to the 8th century. Initially used for religious texts, it evolved into a popular medium for producing secular images during the Edo period (1603-1868).

The process of creating a woodblock print involves transferring an inked image from a woodblock onto paper. The artist carves a design into a block of wood, with each color requiring a separate block. The paper is then pressed onto the inked blocks, creating a vibrant, layered image.

The Ukiyo-e Style

The ukiyo-e style emerged during the 17th century and became synonymous with Japanese woodblock prints. Ukiyo-e means "pictures of the floating world" and captures the vibrant urban culture of Edo-era Japan.

Ukiyo-e prints depicted a wide range of subjects, including landscapes, portraits, kabuki actors, courtesans, and everyday life. They were often characterized by their bold colors, dynamic compositions, and intricate details.

Famous Artists and Publishers

Numerous talented artists and publishers played pivotal roles in the development of woodblock printing. Katsushika Hokusai, Utagawa Hiroshige, and Ando Hiroshige are among the most celebrated artists, known for their iconic masterpieces.

Publishers such as Tsutaya Juzaburo and Nishimura Yohachi were influential in commissioning and promoting the work of these artists. Their

discerning eye for quality and understanding of the market helped shape the evolution of the art form.

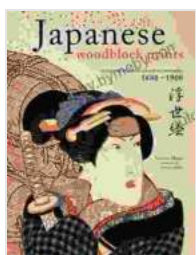
Masterworks of Japanese Woodblock Printing

This book features a curated selection of over 350 masterworks, providing an in-depth look at the beauty and diversity of Japanese woodblock prints.

- **"The Great Wave off Kanagawa" by Katsushika Hokusai:** This iconic print captures the raw power and beauty of a towering wave against the backdrop of Mount Fuji.
- **"The Fifty-three Stations of the Tokaido" by Utagawa Hiroshige:** A series of 55 prints, this depicts the journey along the Tokaido road, showcasing iconic landmarks and everyday life.
- **"The Courtesan Tomoe" by Kitagawa Utamaro:** This exquisite portrait captures the beauty and grace of a courtesan, renowned for its delicate lines and vibrant colors.

Japanese Woodblock Prints: Artists, Publishers, and Masterworks 1680 – 1900 is an indispensable guide for anyone interested in the history, art, and cultural significance of this remarkable art form.

Enriched with captivating stories, stunning visuals, and detailed analysis, this book offers an immersive exploration into the world of Japanese woodblock prints.



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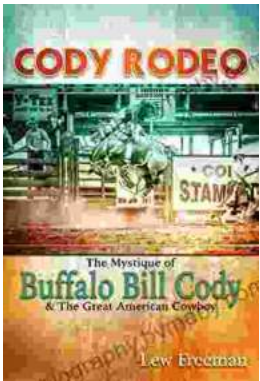
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