Hokusai: Mad about Painting

On view November 23, 2019–November 8, 2020, Freer Gallery of Art

The Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai (1760–1849) produced thousands of works throughout his long life. Charles Lang Freer recognized the artist’s vast abilities and assembled one of the world’s largest collections of paintings, sketches, and drawings by Hokusai. In commemoration of the centennial of Freer’s death in 1919, and in celebration of the Summer Olympics in Tokyo in 2020, the Freer Gallery presents a yearlong exploration of Hokusai’s prolific career.

Works large and small are on view, from six-panel folding screens and hanging scrolls to paintings, drawings, and manga, Hokusai’s often-humorous renderings of everyday life in Japan. Together, these works reveal an artistic genius who thought he might finally achieve true mastery in painting—if he lived to the age of 110.

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Mount Fuji
Katsushika Hokusai 葛飾北斎 (1760–1849)
Japan, Edo period, ca. 1830–32
Six-panel folding screen; ink, gold, and color on paper
(One of a pair with F1902.49)
Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, F1902.48

Hyakunin isshu uba ge etoki: Kisen Hoshi
Katsushika Hokusai 葛飾北斎 (1760–1849)
Japan, Edo period, ca. mid-1830s
Ink on paper
Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, F1907.548
Thunder God  
Katsushika Hokusai 葛飾北斎 (1760–1849) 
Japan, Edo period, 1847  
Hanging scroll; ink and color on paper  
Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, F1900.47

Pumpkin Vine and Horsefly  
Katsushika Hokusai 葛飾北斎 (1760–1849) 
Japan, Edo period, ca. 1825–33  
Hanging scroll (mounted on a panel); ink and color on silk  
Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, F1898.111

Courtesan  
Katsushika Hokusai 葛飾北斎 (1760–1849) 
Japan, Edo period, ca. 1796–98  
Hanging scroll; ink and color on paper  
Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, F1903.129

Suikoden (detail)  
Katsushika Hokusai 葛飾北斎 (1760–1849) 
Japan, Edo period, ca. 1829  
Handscroll; ink, color, and gold on silk  
Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, F1904.142

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Sketch of a courtesan
Katsushika Hokusai (葛飾北斎, 1760–1849)
Japan, Edo period, mid-19th century
Album leaf; ink on paper
Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, F1904.237

Pounding Rice for Mochi
Katsushika Hokusai (葛飾北斎, 1760–1849)
Inscription: Momomoto Hinamaro (桃本雛麻呂, 1764–1830)
Japan, Edo period, ca. 1822
Hanging scroll; ink and color on silk

Odori hitorigeiko
Katsushika Hokusai (葛飾北斎, 1760–1849)
Japan, Edo period, 1815
Woodblock-printed book; ink on paper
Purchase–The Gerhard Pulverer Collection, FSC-GR-780.222

Hokusai manga
Katsushika Hokusai (葛飾北斎, 1760–1849)
Japan, Edo period, 1814–78
Woodblock-printed book; ink and color on paper
Purchase–The Gerhard Pulverer Collection, FSC-GR-780.233.1-14
**Boy Viewing Mount Fuji**

Katsushika Hokusai (葛飾北斎) (1760–1849)

Japan, Edo period, 1839

Hanging scroll; ink and color on silk

Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, F1898.110

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**Descending Dragon**

Katsushika Hokusai (葛飾北斎) (1760–1849)

Japan, Edo period, 1845

Hanging scroll; ink and color on silk

Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, F1904.189

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**Ascending Dragon**

Katsushika Hokusai (葛飾北斎) (1760–1849)

Japan, Edo period, 1845

Hanging scroll; ink and color on silk

Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, F1904.190

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**Hokusai gafu**

Katsushika Hokusai (葛飾北斎) (1760–1849)

Japan, Edo period, 1849

Woodblock-printed book; ink and color on paper

Purchase–The Gerhard Pulverer Collection, FSC-GR-780.247.1-5

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Images Below Go On View in Spring 2020

**Hyakunin isshu uba ge etoki: Gon Chunagon Sadayori**
Katsushika Hokusai (葛飾北斎, 1760–1849)
Japan, Edo period, ca. mid-1830s
Ink and color on paper
Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, F1907.563

**Birds, Animals, and Plants of the Twelve Months**
Katsushika Hokusai (葛飾北斎, 1760–1849)
Japan, Edo period, ca. 1821–33
Six-panel folding screen; ink and color on paper
(One of a pair with F1904.180)
Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, F1904.179

**Breaking Waves**
Katsushika Hokusai (葛飾北斎, 1760–1849)
Japan, Edo period, 1847
Hanging scroll; ink and color on silk
Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, F1905.276

**Egret on a Bridge Post**
Katsushika Hokusai (葛飾北斎, 1760–1849)
Japan, Edo period, ca. 1801–1802
Hanging scroll; ink and color on silk
Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, F1898.95

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Crustaceans
Katsushika Hokusai 葛飾北斎 (1760–1849)
Japan, Edo period, 1825–30
Hanging scroll; ink and color on silk
Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, F1902.254

Portrait of a Courtesan Walking
Katsushika Hokusai 葛飾北斎 (1760–1849)
Japan, Edo period, ca. 1815–19
Hanging scroll; ink and color on silk
Purchase—Charles Lang Freer Endowment, Freer Gallery of Art, F1954.119

Rats and Rice Bales
Katsushika Hokusai 葛飾北斎 (1760–1849)
Japan, Edo period, 1843
Hanging scroll (mounted on panel); ink and color on silk
Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, F1904.132

Lute and White Snake of Benten
Katsushika Hokusai 葛飾北斎 (1760–1849)
Japan, Edo period, 1847
Hanging scroll (mounted on panel); ink and color on silk
Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, F1904.134

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**Woodcutter**
Katsushika Hokusai 葛飾北斎 (1760–1849)
Japan, Edo period, 1849
Hanging scroll; ink and color on silk
Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, F1904.181

**Fisherman**
Katsushika Hokusai 葛飾北斎 (1760–1849)
Japan, Edo period, 1849
Hanging scroll; ink and color on silk
Gift of Charles Lang Freer, Freer Gallery of Art, F1904.182