



THE FREER HOUSE

International Landmark, A World Class Lecture Series



71 East Ferry
Detroit, MI 48202
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A FREE ONLINE LECTURE

MAD ABOUT PAINTING: HOKUSAI & FREER

Tuesday, May 24, 2022
6:00 PM (EDT)

TO REGISTER:

<https://mpsi.wayne.edu/freer/events>

The event will be live-streamed on the Detroit Institute of Arts' Facebook and YouTube Channels. You may use either platform to access the lecture. A recording will be available for later viewing on the DIA's YouTube channel.



Guest Speaker
Frank Feltens, PhD
Japan Foundation Associate Curator of Japanese Art, Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art



Katsushika Hokusai, *Boy Viewing Mount Fuji*, 1839, hanging scroll; ink and color on silk. Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.: Gift of Charles Lang Freer, F1898.110

This lecture is co-sponsored by
The Freer House, Wayne State University and the
DIA Friends of Asian Arts and Cultures, with support from the
Japan Business Society of Detroit, Japan Cultural Development,
and Japan America Society of Michigan and Southwest Ontario.

If anyone in the United States and Europe can name just one Japanese artist, that name will surely be that of Katsushika Hokusai. Since the time of Japan's modernization in the Meiji era, Hokusai has been—and continues to be—Japan's signature artist. Hokusai's iconic print, *Great Wave Off Kanagawa*, is one of the most recognizable and often cited works in the global history of art. The name Hokusai and his works of art are a part of Japan's contemporary cultural identity like few other artists before him.

However, in the public imagination, Hokusai is mainly known through his prints. Arguably the most direct manifestation of Hokusai's personal agency, on the other hand, are his sketches, drawings, and paintings—something that Charles Lang Freer recognized as one of the few Western collectors of his time. Thanks to Charles Lang Freer's pioneering collecting, aesthetic sensibility, and foresight, the Freer Gallery of Art is fortunate to be home to the world's largest collection of Hokusai's paintings and drawings, works that are essential to understand Hokusai's artistry. In this talk, Dr. Feltens is exploring the motivations that formed the backdrop of Freer's aesthetic sense and collecting activities with a particular focus on Hokusai.

Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month



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See reverse for more details



Katsushika Hokusai, *Various Faces*, album leaf; ink on paper. Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.: Gift of Charles Lang Freer, F1904.268



Katsushika Hokusai, *Buddhist Figure*, album leaf; ink and color on paper. Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.: Gift of Charles Lang Freer, F1904.216

About the Speaker, Frank Feltens, PhD



Frank Feltens is Japan Foundation Associate Curator of Japanese Art at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art. A native of Germany, he received a PhD in Japanese art history from Columbia University. Dr. Feltens is a specialist in Japanese painting with a particular focus on the late medieval and early modern eras.

Dr. Feltens has published and lectured on a range of topics related to Japanese art. Before joining the National Museum of Asian Art, he held research positions at MoMA, the National Museum of Asian Art in Berlin, and the Nezu Museum in Tokyo. He has organized a number of exhibitions at the National Museum of Asian Art, most recently *Hokusai: Mad about Painting* and his current exhibition, co-curated with Yukio Lippit, PhD, *Mind Over Matter: Zen in Medieval Japan*.

Charles Lang Freer: America's Great Collector of Japanese Art

Freer's first Asian art purchase in 1887 was a painted Japanese fan. As Freer became increasingly interested in Japanese art, he visited Japan five times between 1895 and 1911, building a pioneering collection including: Buddhist works from the 7th–17th century; significant examples of both Rimpa and Kano school paintings; major works by the artists Hon'ami Kōetsu and Tawaraya Sōtatsu; Ukiyo-e paintings from the early 17th–19th century; the world's premier collection of paintings by Katsushika Hokusai; and the largest selection of ceramics outside of Japan by Ogata Kenzan.

Photo: Freer in Japan with the Hara Family, Sannotani, Yokohama, 1907. Freer poses with Tomitarō Hara, silk merchant and art collector, as well as Hara's wife Yasu (left), and daughter Haruko (right). Second row (left to right): presumed to be Miss Geerts, the Hara family English tutor; Yokohama art dealer Yōzō Nomura; and Naokichi Murata (Hara's butler). Freer Gallery of Art Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

