

Quarter/Year

Winter 2020

Course Number

ART-HIST 395

Day/Time

W 1-4 PM

Instructor

Katz

Course Title

Museums: Japanese Woodblock Prints: From 1660 to the Present
(onsite at the Art Institute of Chicago)

Degree/Distro Fulfillment

Non-Euro-American;
seminar



The production of commercial prints in Japan was the result of a popular revolution in Japanese society. Japan's great premodern cities, especially Edo (now Tokyo), were home to an increasingly prosperous, sophisticated, and literate urban dweller who would purchase images of their favorite celebrities of the day or the latest illustrated novel. This class will explore the birth of the commercial Japanese print, and its many incarnations leading to the designs of contemporary artists. During our discussions we will

consider the changing role of the artist and issues of use and reception, including the part the West played in the interpretation of Japanese prints into the 20th century.

Connoisseurship will feature strongly in this class taught from a curatorial point of view. As this class will be conducted largely in the Art Institute's Japanese print storage area, it is a rare opportunity to view works of art up close and unframed, essential for an understanding of printing techniques and collecting practices.

Required Textbooks

NA

Assessments