



TITLE: *Bird in Flowering Tree*

ARTIST: Imao Keinen (1845-1924)

DATE: 1892 A.D.

SIZE: 12.5" x 8.75"

MEDIUM: color woodblock

ACQUISITION #s: 70.47

ADDITIONAL WORKS BY ARTIST IN COLLECTION?

YES X NO



Tree Peony, Tree Sparrow

Color Woodblock 1882 18 7/8" x 14 1/8"

Color Woodblocking Tools

Washi— Japanese paper.

Baren—A tool used to apply pressure during the transfer of woodblock ink to paper.

Color Woodblock Process

- 1)The image is drawn onto thin washi and then, face-down, glued onto a plank of wood.
- 2)Incisions are made along either side of each line. The wood is then chiseled away based on these incisions.
- 3)The woodblock is inked and then the paper is pressed against the woodblock by a baren.

Artist's Biography

Imao Keinen (1845-1924) was one of the most famous Japanese painters of his time. Keinen studied painting and calligraphy under Suzuki Hyakunen and also studied styles of his other masters. In 1888 he was a professor at the Kyoto Prefecture School of Painting and then became a member of the Art Committee of the Imperial Household (1904) as well as the Imperial Art Academy (1919). Keinen held exhibitions of his work in both Japan and Paris in the early 1900s, and became most well known for his Kacho-ga pieces that featured designs of birds and flowers. He is also known for his involvement in the Shin Hanga movement.

Related Terminology

Ukiyo-e— A Japanese art style from the 17th-19th centuries that focused on the momentary "floating world" which often involved subjects of landscapes, women, the theater, and popular pastimes.

Kacho-ga—A more specific branch of Ukiyo-e that focused on birds, flowers, and grasses. Some, however, used subjects like insects, dogs, or other animals instead of birds. This specific style itself was inspired by the Chinese.

Shin-Hanga— an art movement in early 20th-century Japan, during the Taishō (1912-1926) and Shōwa (1926-1989) periods, that revitalized traditional Ukiyo-e art rooted in the Edo (1603-1868) and Meiji (1868-1912) periods.

Birds & Flowers of the Four Seasons

Birds & Flowers of the Four Seasons was a series of color woodblock prints by Keinen that was in the Kacho-ga style. This series was known for the presentation of flowers and birds scientifically and precisely.



Bird in Flowering Tree

References

- <http://web-japan.org>
- <http://www.fujiarts.com>
- <http://liblamp.vm.ku.edu>
- <http://www.darvillsrareprints.com>
- <https://www.davidsongalleries.com>

Completed Spring 2017,
Diana Robertson

Lesson Plan

Age Group: K-5 **Time Needed:** 1-2 Class Periods

Students will create their own Kacho-ga prints of their state bird and flower using Keinen's work as a reference for the style.

Materials:

- 8.5x11" paper
- medium of choice (styrofoam prints, color pencils, watercolor paints, acrylics, etc.)
- computer for research

Objectives: Students will be able to create works in the Kacho-ga style through observation of existing works and also be able to apply symbols of their state into the work.

Procedure:

- 1) Students will look at images online of Imao Keinen's works as well as images of their state's bird and flower. Florida's state bird is the Northern Mockingbird and its flower is the Orange Blossom.
- 2) They will then each create a single panel piece in the Kacho-ga style of the state bird and flower.
- 3) Students, when finished, will present their pieces to the class and speak about what decisions they made while creating their pieces.



Imao Keinen
Cherokee Rose, Rustic Bunting
Color Woodblock 1891 25x17.5"

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards Skills, Techniques, and Process

Enduring Understanding 3: Through purposeful practice, artists learn to manage, master, and refine simple, then complex, skills and techniques.

VA.3.S.3.1–Use materials, tools, and processes to achieve an intended result in two- and/or three-dimensional artworks.

VA.3.S.2.1– Integrate the structural elements of art and organizational principles of design with sequential procedures and techniques to achieve an artistic goal.

Lesson Plan

Age Group: 6-12 **Time Needed:** 1-2 Class Periods

Students will create a two panel piece in the Kacho-ga style with birds and plants native to the region in which they live. Panels can be of various media, but linoleum block prints could be created.

Materials:

- (2)12.5x8.75" paper
- 2D medium of choice (linoleum block prints, color pencils, watercolor paints, acrylics, etc.)
- computer for research

Objectives: Students will be able to conduct research on native birds and plants of their regions and be able to apply this information to create their panels.

Procedure:

- 1) Students will conduct research on both the Kacho-ga style and birds and plants native to the region in which they live.
- 2) Using the information gathered during the research, students will each create a two panel piece in the Kacho-ga style.
- 3) Students will present their finished pieces to the class and discuss the reasons they chose the birds and plants they selected.

Imao Keinen *Small Juncus, Water Carthrop, Nuphar, Pied Wagtail*
Color Woodblock 1891 12.5x8.75"



Next Generation Sunshine State Standards Skills, Techniques, and Process

Enduring Understanding 3: Through purposeful practice, artists learn to manage, master, and refine simple, then complex, skills and techniques.

VA.68.S.3.1–Use two-dimensional or three-dimensional art materials and tools to understand the potential and limitations of each.

VA.912.S.3.5–Create multiple works that demonstrate thorough exploration of subject matter and themes.