

5 stars of Ukiyo-e Artists

—Utamaro, Sharaku, Hokusai, Hiroshige and Kuniyoshi

I. Kitagawa Utamaro

—best known for picture of beautiful women

Kitagawa Utamaro (1753-1806)

Family name is Kitagawa, given name is Yusuke or Ichitaro later he changed his name Utamaro. He studied under Toriyama Sekien. His work began to appear in 1775, and he rose to prominence in 1791 with *bijin-okubie* “*large headed pictures of beautiful women*”, which was published from publisher Tsutaya Juzaburo. He became the best known ukiyo-e artist of beautiful women. Besides woodblock printings, he draw pictures by hand also. He took many pupils, Utamaro Jr., Tsukimaro and Fujimaro and so on.

When artists and writers put out prints and books on the *Ehon Taikoki* in disparaged ukiyo-e style, it attracted reprisals from government. It probably the Most famous case of censorship of Edo period. Utamaro was in prison and later on he died.

五大浮世絵師展

歌麿 写楽 北斎 広重 国芳

UTAMARO SHARAKU HOKUSAI HIROSHIGE KUNIYOSHI