

5 stars of Ukiyo-e Artists

—Utamaro, Sharaku, Hokusai, Hiroshige and Kuniyoshi

II. Toshusai Sharaku

Sharaku-legendary Ukiyo-e artist disappeared suddenly and mysteriously

Little is known of Sharaku's life. Neither his true name nor the dates of his birth or death are unknown. Gessin Saito, historical researcher in Edo period, he wrote about Toshusai Sharaku in his book *Zouho Ukiyoeruiko*. According to Gessin Saito, Toshusai Sharaku's secular name was Saito Jyuzaburo, lived in Hachobori Edo and was Noh actor. He made portraits of kabuki actors, which display an realism unusual and doesn't last so long. In fact his active carrier as a woodblock artist had spanned for ten months since appeared vividly from publisher Tsutaya Jyuzaburo. During ten months he made 140 pieces and then he disappeared suddenly and mysteriously.

五大浮世絵師展

歌麿 写楽 北斎 広重 国芳

UTAMARO SHARAKU HOKUSAI HIROSHIGE KUNIYOSHI