

5 stars of Ukiyo-e Artists

—Utamaro, Sharaku, Hokusai, Hiroshige and Kuniyoshi

III. Katsushika Hokusai

—the most famous ukiyo-e artist all over the world

Katsushika Haokusai (1760-1849)

Katsushika Hokusai was a Japanese artist, ukiyo-e printer and printmaker in Edo period. Born in Honjowarigesui Edo.

His date of birth is unclear but stated in 1760 and dead in 1849. He became an adopted son of mirror maker of Nakajima Ise who produced mirror for the shogun. Hokusai was known by several names during his life, Tetsuzo and later Miurayahachiemon. He studied under Katsukawa Shunsho, Kano Yusei, Tsutsumi Torin and Sumiyoshi Hiroyuki. He published first his print, a series of pictures of Kabuki actors in 1779. He had dubbed Shunro till 1793. Since after he used several names, Gunmatei, Sori, Kako, Hokusai, Taito, Iitsu and Manji. It is said that over 30 names he used. Hokusai's name changes are so frequent, and so often related to changes to his artistic production and style.

He completed a wide range of art works such as color print nishikie, print surimono and hand writing picture nikuhitsuga during over 70 years of his life.

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UTAMARO SHARAKU HOKUSAI HIROSHIGE KUNIYOSHI