

5 stars of Ukiyo-e Artists

—Utamaro, Sharaku, Hokusai, Hiroshige and Kuniyoshi

V. Utagawa Kuniyoshi

—professional of Japanese folk monster and warrior

Utagawa Kuniyoshi (1797-1861)

Utagawa Kuniyoshi was the Japanese ukiyo-e artist in late of Edo period. He studied under Utagawa Toyokuni.

His childhood name was Yoshisaburo and common name was Magosaburo. He started to paint in the period of 1804-1818 and uses several names, Ichiyusai, Asazakuraro. He experienced difficulties in economic situation at one point. During about the period of 1818-1830, he received his first major commission for the series, One hundred and eight heroes of the popular Suikoden all told (*Tsuzoku Suikoden goketsu hyakuhachinin no hitori*), based on the incredibly popular Chinese tale Shuihu Zhuan. He became extremely popular. There have attraction for an effective sense of action intensity in his depiction of the combat and caricature. He was the pioneer and known for depiction of battle of legendary of samurai and left many excellent pieces. One of his representative works is *Sanukiin Kenzokuwoshite Tametomowoo Sukuuzu*.

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UTAMARO SHARAKU HOKUSAI HIROSHIGE KUNIYOSHI