

**CHAZEN MUSEUM OF ART**  
University of Wisconsin–Madison  
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**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**Major Exhibition of Japanese Utagawa-School Prints**  
**November 3, 2007 through January 6, 2008, Brittingham Galleries VI & VII**  
**Reception: Friday, Nov. 2, 6–8 p.m.**  
**Symposium: Saturday, Nov. 3, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.**

The Chazen Museum of Art is pleased to announce a major exhibition from its renowned Van Vleck collection of Japanese woodblock prints. *Competition and Collaboration: Japanese Prints of the Utagawa School* will display more than 120 prints in Brittingham Galleries VI & VII from November 3, 2007, through January 26, 2008. An opening reception will be held on Friday, November 2, from 6 to 8 p.m., and the Chazen will host a scholarly symposium on Saturday, November 3, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Japan's burgeoning urban culture in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was rich with entertainments vying for the public's attention: kabuki theaters, the pleasure quarters, festivals and markets, leisure travel, diverse forms of literature, and a thriving print publishing industry. The prolific Utagawa school of artists was responsible for over half of all extant *ukiyo-e* prints, or "pictures of the floating world," that detailed and glamorized the amusements for a popular audience. This line of print designers, painters, and book illustrators was founded by Utagawa Toyoharu during the second half of the eighteenth century and remained active in Edo (present-day Tokyo) throughout the nineteenth century. Followers of Toyoharu like Utagawa Kunisada, Utagawa Hiroshige, and Utagawa Kuniyoshi dominated virtually every genre of *ukiyo-e*, including pictures of beautiful women (*bijin-ga*), prints of kabuki actors (*yakusha-e*), erotica (*shunga*), warrior prints (*musha-e*), and landscape pictures (*fūkei-ga*). In a climate of fierce creative competition, urban bustle, and government regulation, these mass-produced woodblock prints were both technically sophisticated and broadly appealing.

The Chazen Museum of Art's Van Vleck Collection numbers more than 4,000 objects and is one of the country's most notable holdings of Japanese prints. Over half of the works in this diverse collection were designed by Utagawa-school artists. The exhibition *Competition and Collaboration: Japanese Prints of the Utagawa School* will provide a rare opportunity to explore in-depth the work of this important artistic school—and a fascinating world inhabited by beautiful geisha, fearless samurai, dramatic landscapes, magical creatures, talented actors, and more.

The Chazen Museum of Art and Hotei Publishing of Amsterdam will publish a groundbreaking catalogue in conjunction with the exhibition. The 256-page publication will feature full-color images of

more than 200 prints by Utagawa-school artists, with explicated entries. It will also include five essays by an international team of scholars.

#### Related events:

- **Opening reception:** Friday, November 2, 6 to 8 p.m., with music by Quartessence String Quartet, refreshments, and a cash bar.
- **International symposium:** Saturday November 3, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., *Competition and Collaboration in Edo Print Culture: A New Perspective*. Nine scholars from the eastern United States, Japan, and the United Kingdom will examine the Edo-based print culture of the nineteenth century in three thematic panels. The symposium is free and open to the public. For more information call (608) 263-2246.
- **Lecture:** Friday, November 9, 5 p.m., room L140. “‘Standing Up’ to the Past: Literature, Humor, and Edo Prints,” by Charo D’Etcheverry, associate professor, East Asian Languages and Literature, UW–Madison. *An introduction to Edo popular culture and a review of literary themes in Japanese woodblock prints, with a discussion of mitate prints that used visual puns to make irreverent or satirical allusions to the classics*. Gallery hours will be extended to 7:30. Sponsored by the UW Center for East Asian Studies and the Chazen Museum of Art with support from a U.S. Department of Education Title VI NRC grant.
- **Kenji Mizoguchi film series:** In conjunction with the exhibition *Competition and Collaboration*, UW Cinematheque and the Chazen Museum of Art will present 7 restored masterpieces by Japanese director Kenji Mizoguchi on Fridays throughout the fall, Sept. 7 and 21, October 5 and 19, November 9, 16, and 30. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., 4070 Vilas Hall, 821 University Avenue. Doors open at 7 p.m. Films are: Sept. 7: *Ugetsu*; Sept. 21: *Street of Shame*; Oct. 5: *Sansho the Bailiff*; Oct. 19: *The Life of Oharu*; Nov. 9: *Utamaro and His Five Women*; Nov. 16: *The Story of the Last Chrysanthemums*; Nov. 30: *Sisters of Gion*.
- **Lecture:** Sunday, November 11, 3 p.m. “Mizoguchi: Secrets of the Exquisite Image,” lecture by David J. Bordwell, Jacques Ledoux Professor Emeritus of Film Studies, Department of Communication Arts, UW–Madison, room L140, Chazen Museum of Art, Conrad A. Elvehjem Building. **Reception:** in Paige Court immediately following the lecture. *Mizoguchi once said he sought “to work all the spectator’s perceptual capacities to the utmost.” This lecture explores Mizoguchi’s distinctive approach to cinematic storytelling, with special emphasis on visual values and their power to create subtle but overpowering drama*. Sponsored by the UW Cinematheque and the Chazen Museum of Art.

Generous local funding for the exhibition and symposium have been provided by the Chazen Museum of Art Council, National Endowment for the Arts, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, The Japan Foundation, The Metropolitan Center for Far Eastern Art Studies, Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission with additional funds from Endres Mfg. Company Foundation and the Overture Foundation, WLS Spencer Foundation, International Fine Print Dealers Association, Northeast Asia Council with the support of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, UW–Madison Department of Art History, UW–Madison Center for East Asian Studies, and Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin.

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The Chazen Museum of Art is open Tuesdays–Fridays 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission to galleries and educational events is free. The museum is located on the campus of the University of Wisconsin–Madison and is accessible to wheelchairs from the Murray Street (north) entrance. Parking is available at the city of Madison’s Lake Street and Frances Street ramps. Evening and weekend parking is also available under Grainger Hall with entrance on Brooks Street between University Avenue and Johnson streets. The Chazen will provide sign language interpreters for associated programs by three-week advance request to Anne Lambert, Curator of Education, weekdays, (608) 263-4421 (voice). Information is also available by visiting our Web site at [www.chazen.wisc.edu](http://www.chazen.wisc.edu)