

For Immediate Release
August 24, 2022

SUSQUEHANNA ART MUSEUM

AT THE MARTY AND TOM PHILIPS FAMILY ART CENTER

HISTORIC JAPANESE PRINTS MEET CONTEMPORARY ART AT SAM

Harrisburg, PA – Susquehanna Art Museum is excited to present a duo of new exhibitions that bring together the past and present. Historic Japanese woodblock prints will be accompanied by dynamic contemporary art to complement their shared themes, patterns, and aesthetic.

Fleeting Pleasures: Japanese Woodblock Prints from the Georgia Museum of Art introduces museum visitors to the rich history of *ukiyo-e* prints using some of the most beloved images in Japanese art history. Views of Mount Fuji, *The Great Wave*, tea ceremonies, and geisha typify the *ukiyo* aesthetic. *Ukiyo* translates to “the floating world,” and by the seventeenth century, it came to describe the pleasures and customs found within the Japanese city of Edo. As Edo grew into modern-day Tokyo, it developed a robust middle class that had a major impact on the character of the city.

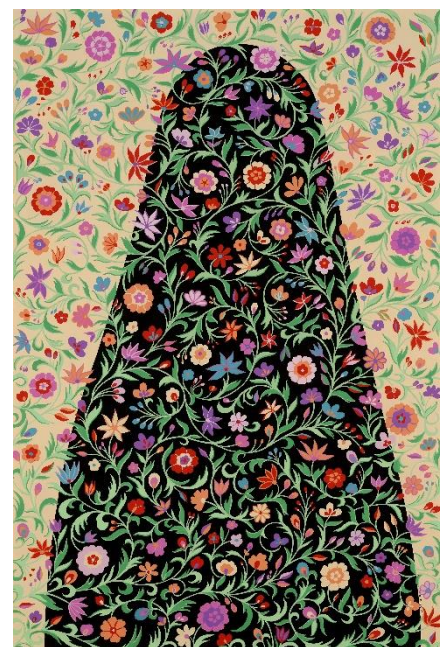


Katsushika Hokusai, *The Great Wave off Kanagawa* (from the series *Thirty-Six Views of Mt. Fuji*), 1829-32, multicolor woodblock print. Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia; Gift of Alfred H. Holbrook

The woodblock prints featured in *Fleeting Pleasures* are created through an elaborate and highly technical process. The artists were inspired by the bustling metropolis of Edo and the regions surrounding it, and much of their artwork reflects cultural traditions of their time. Works on view date from the seventeenth century through the mid-twentieth century, and visitors will find sumptuous examples of Japanese visual culture that spans these centuries.

Accompanying *Fleeting Pleasures* is a vibrant collection of work by five contemporary female artists in *Deep Roots: Ornamentation and Identity*. These contemporary pieces are inspired by traditional patterns and modes of ornamentation. While many of the woodblocks in *Fleeting Pleasures* feature the daily lives and tasks of women, the artists represented are men. *Deep Roots* examines how contemporary women’s identity has been shaped by the traditions characteristic of their own heritage.

In the past century embellishment and ornamentation fell out of fashion in art and architecture, in favor of a minimalist aesthetic. Many contemporary artists are now referencing and re-learning traditional techniques of the past to root themselves in their own cultural identity. Artists Kuzana Ogg, Cecilia Paredes, Daisy Patton, Helice Wen, and Helen Zughaib exhibit mixed media pieces that utilize rich patterns and textures to represent important layers of identity. Storytelling using culturally specific symbols and patterns is one of



Helen Zughaib, *Arab Spring*, 2014, gouache on board, framed 43” x 33”

the crucial methods rooting our contemporary lives to the past. In the same way Japanese woodblock masters passed down their knowledge and practices, these contemporary artists reflect on their cultures and unique histories to shape their bold works of art. This unique pairing of exhibitions illustrates how ornamentation has been timeless across cultures.

Both exhibitions are on view in the Lehr Gallery October 8, 2022 – January 22, 2023. Museum members are invited to a special preview opening Friday, October 7, 5:00 – 6:00 pm. Featured artist Helen Zughaib will be at Susquehanna Art Museum January 13 and 14 for an artist talk and a hands-on workshop.

Thank you to our Lehr Gallery Season sponsors

The Carole DeSoto Foundation and Anne M. & Philip H. III Glatfelter Foundation.

Susquehanna Art Museum is located at 1401 N. 3rd Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102.

Hours: Wednesday 10am – 7pm, Thursday – Saturday 10am – 5pm, Sunday 12 – 5pm.

Free parking is available to visitors in the lot behind the Museum at Calder and James Streets.

www.SusquehannaArtMuseum.org (717) 233-8668

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