

## Drawings by Hokusai and His Students at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

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*Works discussed, in the order that they appeared (not counting the introduction)*

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Two drawings made by Hokusai to show pupils how to do things:

Katsushika Hokusai, Japanese, 1760–1849

葛飾北斎

*Nichiren Shōnin Writing on the Waves*, about 1830s–early 1840s

日蓮上人波題目画稿

Unmounted; ink on paper

William Sturgis Bigelow Collection, 1911 11.9363

Katsushika Hokusai, Japanese, 1760–1849

葛飾北斎

*Sketch of Figures Prepared for Instruction of a Pupil*, 1830s

人物絵手本

Ink on paper

Gift of Edward S. Morse, 1922 22.400

Three block-ready drawings in the Spaulding Collection, which by the terms of the gift cannot be exhibited:

Katsushika Hokusai, Japanese, 1760–1849

葛飾北斎

*Drawing for: Poem by Fujiwara no Mototoshi, from the series One Hundred Poems Explained by the Nurse (Hyakunin isschu uba ga etoki)*

「百人一首姥か恵とき 藤原基後」 (版下絵)  
Japanese, Edo period, about 1835–36 (Tenpō 6–7)  
Ink on paper  
Horizontal ōban; 25.7 x 38.2 cm (10 1/8 x 15 1/16 in.)  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
William S. and John T. Spaulding Collection, 1921 21.6747

Katsushika Hokusai, Japanese, 1760–1849

葛飾北斎

*Drawing for: Poem by Kawara no Sadaijin (Minamoto no Tōru), from the series One Hundred Poems Explained by the Nurse (Hyakunin isschu uba ga etoki)*

「百人一首乳母か絵説 河原の左大臣」 (版下絵)  
Japanese, Edo period, about 1835–36 (Tenpō 6–7)  
Ink on paper, with red seal  
Horizontal ōban; 25 x 37.5 cm (9 13/16 x 14 3/4 in.)  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
William S. and John T. Spaulding Collection, 1921 21.6727

Katsushika Hokusai, Japanese, 1760–1849

葛飾北斎

*Drawing for: Poem by Minamoto no Shunrai (Minamoto no Toshiyori Ason), from the series One Hundred Poems Explained by the Nurse (Hyakunin isschu uba ga etoki)*

「百人一首姥か恵とき 源俊頼朝臣」 (版下絵)  
Japanese, Edo period, about 1835–36 (Tenpō 6–7)  
Ink on paper  
Horizontal ōban; 25.6 x 37 cm (10 1/16 x 14 9/16 in.)  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
William S. and John T. Spaulding Collection, 1921 21.6746

For comparison, a key block print (made from a woodblock carved by using the artist's drawing as a pattern) and a finished, full-color print of the same design:

Katsushika Hokusai, Japanese, 1760–1849

葛飾北斎

*Poem by Ono no Komachi, from the series One Hundred Poems Explained by the Nurse (Hyakunin isschu uba ga etoki)*

「百人一首うはかゑるとき 小壑小町」 (校合摺)  
Japanese, Edo period, about 1835–36 (Tenpō 6–7)  
Woodblock print (key block); ink on paper  
Horizontal ōban; 27.4 x 39.3 cm (10 13/16 x 15 1/2 in.)  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
William Sturgis Bigelow Collection, 1911 11.17529

Katsushika Hokusai, Japanese, 1760–1849

葛飾北斎

*Poem by Ono no Komachi, from the series One Hundred Poems Explained by the Nurse (Hyakunin isschu uba ga etoki)*

「百人一首うはかゑるとき 小墅小町」)  
Japanese, Edo period, about 1835–36 (Tenpō 6–7)  
Woodblock print (nishiki-e); ink and color on paper  
Horizontal ōban; 25.3 x 37.5 cm (9 15/16 x 14 3/4 in.)  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
William S. and John T. Spaulding Collection, 1921 21.6724

Two sets of drawings bound as books; preliminary sketches (shita-e) and block-ready-drawings (hanshita-e) of the same designs, never published

Attributed to: Katsushika Hokusai, Japanese, 1760–1849  
伝葛飾北斎  
*Drawings (shita-e) for a three-volume picturebook, Lives of Great Generals of Japan (Nihon meishō den)*  
日本名将伝 下絵  
Japanese, Edo period, about 1830s  
Ink on paper  
23.5 × 16.5 cm (9 1/4 × 6 1/2 in.)  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
Source unidentified, catalogued 2006 2006.1863.1-3  
Reference: British Mus., Hokusai: Beyond the Great Wave (2017), pp. 42-6, 268 (#170)

Attributed to: Katsushika Hokusai, Japanese, 1760–1849  
伝葛飾北斎  
*Drawings (hanshita-e) for a six-volume book, Record of Shoguns of Great Japan, Collection One (Dai Nihon Shōgun ki, shoshū)*  
大日本将軍記初集 版下絵  
Japanese, Edo period, about 1830s  
Ink on paper  
28 x 20 cm (11 x 7 7/8 in.)  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
Source unidentified, catalogued 1998 1998.669.1-6  
Reference: British Mus., Hokusai: Beyond the Great Wave (2017), pp. 42-6, 269 (#171)

Katsushika Hokusai, Japanese, 1760–1849  
葛飾北斎  
*Drawings (hanshita-e) for a three-volume picture book, possibly The Great Picture Book of Everything, about 1820s–40s*  
書名不詳版下絵 (万物絵本大全カ)  
Ink on paper  
Source unidentified, catalogued 1998 1998.670.1-3  
References: Clark, Hokusai: The Great Picture Book of Everything (2021); British Mus., Hokusai: Beyond the Great Wave (2017), #168; Thompson, Hokusai's Lost Manga (2016); MFA, Hokusai (2013), #141; Calza, Hokusai (Italian edition, 1999; English edition, 2003), cat. no. III.70.1-3, photos p. 193 (1999 ed.), p. 179 (2003 ed.)

Two unmounted drawings found together in an envelope, one with a pencil inscription by Bigelow:

Unidentified artist, Japanese

作者不詳

Formerly attributed to Katsushika Hokusai, Japanese, 1760–1849

伝葛飾北斎

*Banner design (?)*: *Han Xin Crawling under the Legs of the Bully*, about 1850s–1870s

幟の下絵カ 韓信胯潜之図

Ink on paper, with red pigment (for transfer?) on back

83.5 × 63 cm (32 7/8 × 24 13/16 in.)

William Sturgis Bigelow Collection, 1911 11.46038

This drawing has an English inscription in the upper left corner, apparently by William Sturgis Bigelow, confirming its provenance: “Bought of Hokusai’s last living pupil—Tokio—1885–6—Hokusai. WSB.” The “last living pupil” is presumably Hokusen.

Unidentified artist, Japanese

作者不詳

Formerly attributed to: Katsushika Hokusai, 1760–1849

伝葛飾北斎

*Banner design (?)*: *Asahina and Soga no Gorō in the Armor-Pulling Scene (Kusazuribiki)*, about 1850s–1870s

幟の下絵カ 草摺引

Ink on paper, with red pigment (for transfer?) on back

77.8 × 51.3 cm (30 5/8 × 20 3/16 in.)

William Sturgis Bigelow Collection, 1911 11.46037

For comparison, a Boys’ Day banner painted by Hokusai and a print by Kiyonaga showing such banners in use:

Katsushika Hokusai, Japanese, 1760–1849

葛飾北斎

*Zhong Kui (Shōki), the Demon Queller*, about 1805

朱鍾馗図幟

Painted banner; color with ink on cotton

Image: 236 x 94 cm (92 15/16 x 37 in.)

William Sturgis Bigelow Collection, 1911 11.9240

Torii Kiyonaga, Japanese, 1752–1815

鳥居清長

*The Boys’ Festival, from the series Precious Children’s Games of the Five Festivals (Kodakara gosetsu asobi)*, about 1801

「子寶五節遊」 端午

Woodblock print (nishiki-e); ink and color on paper

Vertical ōban; 39 x 25.9 cm (15 3/8 x 10 3/16 in.)

William Sturgis Bigelow Collection, 1911 11.13932

Unidentified artist, Japanese

作者不詳

Formerly attributed to: Katsushika Hokusai, Japanese, 1760–1849

伝葛飾北斎

*Snake: Design for a Pair of Folding Screens*, about 1850s–1870s

「深川北仙蔵 北斎屏風一双雛形」 蛇

Handscroll; ink and color on paper

35.7 × 145 cm (14 1/16 × 57 1/16 in.)

William Sturgis Bigelow Collection, 1911 11.46034

An inscription identifies this work as the property of “Fukagawa Hokusen.”

Works related to Hokuga and Hokusen

Attributed to: Manjirō Hokuga, Japanese, died in 1856

伝卍楼北鷺

*Album of color sketches entitled The Knowledge of Color (Saishiki tsū)*, 1856

Ink and color on paper, mounted in paperbound album

Each page: 32.4 × 23.9 cm (12 3/4 × 9 7/16 in.)

William Sturgis Bigelow Collection, 1911 11.46042

Unsigned, but attributed to Hokuga on the basis of style. Includes sketches and text on how to draw a tiger with similarities to the tiger painting signed by Hokuga, 11.7405.

Manjirō Hokuga, Japanese, died in 1856

卍楼北鷺

*Tiger in a Thunder Storm*, about 1840s–50s

雷雨に虎図

Hanging scroll; ink and color on flax

Image: 53.8 × 34.2 cm (21 3/16 × 13 7/16 in.)

William Sturgis Bigelow Collection, 1911 11.7405

Manjisai Hokusen, Japanese, died about 1885

卍斎北僊

*Album of Sketches*

画帖

Ink on paper, mounted in paperbound album

Each page: 50.7 × 33.3 cm (19 15/16 × 13 1/8 in.)

William Sturgis Bigelow Collection, 1911 11.46055.2

A sketch signed Manjisai Hokusen is based on the same design as a painting by Hokuga, 11.7406.

Did Hokusen copy Hokuga, or did both of them copy Hokusai?

Manjirō Hokuga, Japanese, died in 1856

卍楼北鷺

*A Young Samurai Punishing a Scoundrel*, about 1840s–50s

悪漢をこらしめる若侍

Hanging scroll; ink and color on silk

Image: 54.3 × 27.2 cm (21 3/8 × 10 11/16 in.)

William Sturgis Bigelow Collection, 1911 11.7406

Works related to Hokusai's third daughter, Katsushika Ōi:

Katsushika Ōi, Japanese, active about 1818–after 1854

葛飾応為

*Album of the Old Man Crazy about Painting (Gakyōrōjin chō)*

画狂老人帖

Color on paper (two drawings) and ink on paper (ten drawings), mounted in paperbound album

Closed album: 35.8 × 32.9 cm (14 1/8 × 12 15/16 in.)

William Sturgis Bigelow Collection, 1911 11.9330

Despite the handwritten title referring to a well-known art name of Hokusai, the Old Man Crazy about Painting, the drawings in this album seem to have been by one or more of his pupils. Three of them are signed Eijo, another version of the name of Hokusai's daughter Oei, whose formal art name was Katsushika Ōi.

Manjisai Isshō, Japanese, dates unknown

卍斎一昇

*Album of Nine Small Paintings*

画帖

Ink and color on paper, mounted in paperbound album

Closed album: 27.8 × 17 cm (10 15/16 × 6 11/16 in.)

William Sturgis Bigelow Collection, 1911 11.9333

The paintings in this little album seem to be finished works, with the artist's signature Manjisai Isshō on the final page. Almost nothing is known about this artist, who also made a hanging scroll painting in the MFA collection. But the name Manjisai was also used by Hokusai, whose collection Bigelow purchased. Could Isshō and Hokusai be the same person?

Another interesting question is raised by the painting of wrestling mice, a seemingly simplified version of Katsushika Ōi's sketch. The resemblance suggests that Isshō was a pupil of Ōi, not Hokusai, and copied her. It's also possible that both Isshō and Ōi copied an earlier Hokusai work.

For comparison, a painting and a printed book also by Ōi:

Katsushika Ōi, Japanese, active about 1818–after 1854

葛飾応為

*Three Women Playing Musical Instruments*, about 1820s–30s

三曲合奏図

Hanging scroll; ink and color on silk

Image: 46.5 × 67.5 cm (18 5/16 × 26 9/16 in.)

William Sturgis Bigelow Collection, 1911 11.7689

Katsushika Ōi, Japanese, active about 1818–after 1854

葛飾応為

*A Treasury for Women (Onna chōhōki)*, 1847

女重寶記

Woodblock printed book; ink and color on paper

Each page: 25.3 × 17.9 cm (9 15/16 × 7 1/16 in.)

Gift of Mrs. Jared K. Morse in memory of Charles J. Morse, catalogued 1997 1997.425

Three hanging scrolls (formerly mounted together, now separated) and an album of color paintings by the same group of artists:

Jofū, Japanese, dates unknown

如風

*Woman Holding Child Beneath Willows*, about 1820s

柳下三美人図 親子

Ōsai, Japanese, dates unknown

応齋

*Courtesan and Child Attendant Beneath Willows*, about 1820s

柳下三美人図 遊女と禿

Kisai, Japanese, dates unknown

氣齋

*Woman on a Riverboat Dock Beneath Willows*, about 1820s

柳下三美人図 船宿の仲居

Set of three hanging scrolls; ink and color on paper

Each image: 46.2 × 17.7 cm (18 3/16 × 6 15/16 in.)

Fenollosa-Weld Collection, 1911 11.4644.1, 11.4644.2, 11.4644.3

Jofū, Japanese, dates unknown

如風

Ōsai, Japanese, dates unknown

応齋

Nansai, Japanese, dates unknown

南齋

*Picture Album of Hokusai's Oldest Daughter Jofū*, about 1820s

北齋長女如風子画帖

Ink and color on paper, mounted in paperbound album

Each page: 38.5 × 24.6 cm (15 3/16 × 9 11/16 in.)

William Sturgis Bigelow Collection, 1911 11.9346

Attributed to: Katsushika Hokusai, Japanese, 1760–1849

葛飾北齋

*Album of Miscellaneous Sketches Including Designs for Artisans*

画帖

Ink on paper, mounted in paperbound album

Each page: 33.2 × 24.2 cm (13 1/16 × 9 1/2 in.)

William Sturgis Bigelow Collection, 1911 11.46044

In addition to the highly detailed drawings that appear to be by Hokusai, less elaborate sketches by unidentified artists, in both Katsushika and Utagawa styles, are in the margins of some of the pages.

Not in the exhibition, but probably from the same group of Hokusai school drawings purchased by Bigelow:

Katsushika Isai, Japanese, 1821–1880

葛飾為齋

*Picture Book of the Compass Points of Edo (Ehon Edo hōkaku)*, 1854

「絵本江戸方角 全」

Drawings bound as a book; ink on paper

Each page: 19 × 13.9 cm (7 1/2 × 5 1/2 in.)

No accession number yet, sorry!

Artist unknown, Meiji era (late 19<sup>th</sup> century)

A set of large drawings of fishing boats at work

William Sturgis Bigelow Collection, 1911 11.46041.1 to .38

Probably preliminary drawings for a large emaki (picture scroll) depicting fishing activities in a particular region, made for an industrial exposition in that region

A little too late to be by a pupil of Hokusai, but showing his influence