

MILLS

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MAGICAL ELEMENTS OF THE FLOATING WORLD Japanese Prints from the Mills College Art Museum Collection **December 3, 2014–May 31, 2015**

OAKLAND, December 1, 2014 □ **THE MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM (MCAM)** is pleased to announce *Magical Elements of the Floating World* on view from December 3, 2014–May 31 2015. Highlighting Japanese woodblock prints from MCAM's collection, this exhibition is curated by students in Dr. Mary-Ann Milford's course *Japanese Paintings and Prints*. Featured are a selection of over twenty *ukiyo-e* prints and books from the nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries, including works by noted woodblock print masters Hiroshige (1797-1858), Hokusai (1760-1849), and Yoshitoshi (1839-1892).

Japanese woodblock prints are known as *ukiyo-e*, which translates as "pictures of the floating world." The exhibition examines aesthetic and conceptual considerations of woodblock print production. Including depictions of landscapes, women, natural disasters, and mythological figures, the works in the exhibition demonstrate the artists' innovative uses of pictorial space, color, and printing processes to create dramatic compositions and a sense of otherworldliness.

Magical Elements of the Floating World is curated by Joel Frank, Zana Ito, Alexis Jimenez, Emily Landry, Abby Massarano, Sadie Padiar, and Anjele Underwood. This exhibition is made possible by a gift in memory of Jacquelyne Weitzenhoffer Branch '48.

Image: Japanese reproduction after Katsushika Hokusai, *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji, Fuji from Mishima Pass in Kai Province*, Late 19th Century, Color woodcut on paper.

ABOUT THE MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM

Founded in 1925, The Mills College Art Museum (MCAM) is a forum for exploring art and ideas and a laboratory for contemporary art practices. Through innovative exhibitions, programs, and collections, the museum engages and inspires the intellectual and creative life of the Mills community as well as the diverse audiences of the Bay Area and beyond. MCAM is located at 5000 MacArthur Boulevard, Oakland, CA 94613. Museum hours are Tuesday-Sunday, 11:00–4:00 pm and Wednesday, 11:00–7:30 pm. Admission is free unless noted. mcam.mills.edu.

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