



It's a big DEAL!

Daily Elementary Art Lesson

Day 27

Hokusai

This lesson is based on the D51 Art Heritage program lesson about the artist Hokusai.



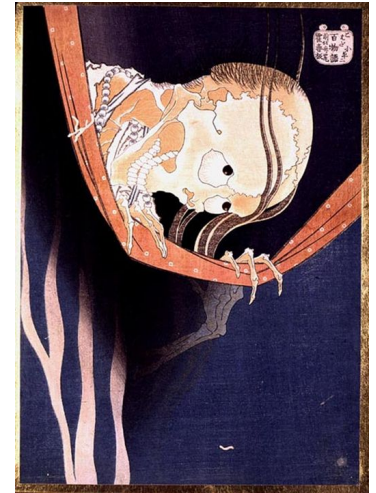


Hokusai

Today we will look at artwork by a famous Japanese artist named Hokusai. In our next lesson, we will make art based on his work.

- How do you pronounce Hokusai? Like this: **HO koo sigh**.
- Through his art, we see what life was like in **Japan in the late 1700s**: the traditions, clothing, and customs that were important.
- It's believed that Hokusai **changed his name** at least 50 times and his address 93 times in his life! Whether that's true or not, he was a very restless person.
- Hokusai style of art is called **Ukiyo-e** ("you-key-oh-ay"). Ukiyo-e means "pictures of the floating world." Ukiyo-e artists made woodblock prints and paintings of famous people, city life and landscapes (pictures of the land).

Let's look at some of Hokusai's prints and paintings...



The Ghost of Kohada Koheiji



Hokusai

Fine Wind, Clear Morning
ca.1830



Mt. Fuji is a dormant volcano considered sacred by the Japanese.



Hokusai

A Sudden Gust of Wind at Ejiri
From Thirty Six Views of Mt. Fuji
ca. 1830–34

"ca." stands for circa, which means "about." This is about when this painting was made.



Hokusai was fascinated by the wind, and often made it the subject of his art.



Hokusai

Some interesting things about Japanese art:

Time Japanese art has little shadow in it, which would show the time of day. When it was created is not important. Most paintings are not dated for the same reason. What is important is **that moment the viewer is looking at the painting**.

Space Just as important to a Japanese artist as what he paints is what he chooses **not** to paint. Everything not included remains part of space...a living, organic being. Asian art contains **large spaces of blank paper**, washes or areas of no figures that illustrate this idea.



Hokusai

The Ronin attack the principal gate of Kira's mansion

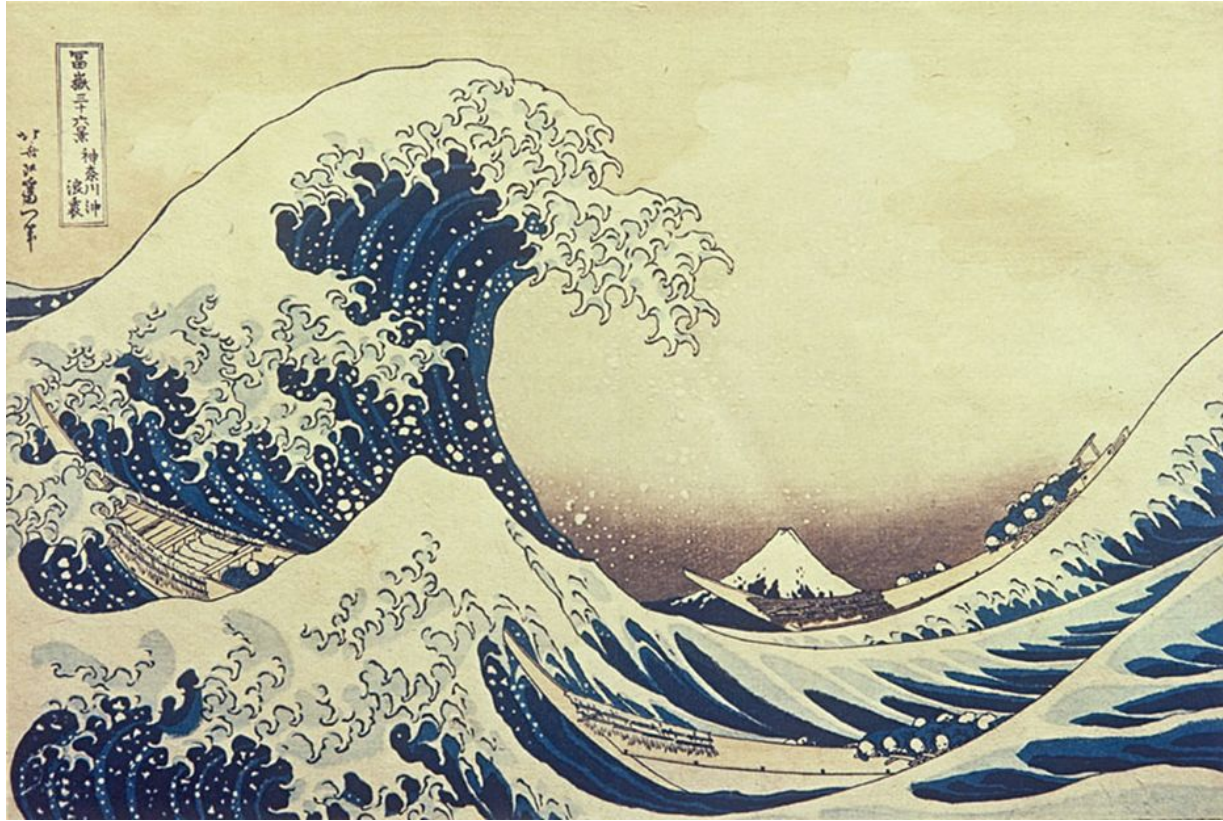


Hokusai did many illustrations for books and poems. This is from the final chapter in the traditional story of the *47 Ronin*. Ronin were different ranks of the military that lived by a strict code of behavior and obedient service to the nobleman they served. A Ronin who had earned two swords was a Samurai (like a general). If a noble was killed, the Ronin could not rest until his death had been avenged.



Hokusai

The Great Wave off Kanagawa
ca. 1830–1



This is probably Hokusai's most famous print. It's a very dramatic view! Look at the boats in comparison to the wave. What is the artist trying to say? Notice the repeating triangular shapes. What is the mountain in the background?



Hokusai

Do you like Hokusai's style? Check tomorrow's lesson! You will make a picture of a wave, like Hokusai's, OR a famous local landmark in the Grand Valley. See you then!



**Li Po Admiring the Waterfall of
Lo-Shan, ca. 1833**