

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

KELLY BISHOP, VP OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

KBISHOP@BOWERS.ORG OR 714.567.3628

**BOWERS
MUSEUM**

Explore the Enduring Legacy of Katsushika Hokusai Hokusai at Bowers Museum

Santa Ana, California, August 16, 2023 —Prepare to embark on a captivating journey into the extraordinary world of Katsushika Hokusai, the visionary artist renowned for creating *The Great Wave*, one of history's most iconic prints. Bowers Museum is proud to present the spectacular exhibition, *Beyond the Great Wave: Works by Hokusai from the British Museum*, featuring a stunning collection of more than 100 paintings, drawings, woodblock prints, and illustrated books that shed light on the life and artistic brilliance of this revered Japanese master.

The exhibition will be on view at Bowers Museum from October 21, 2023, to January 7, 2024, offering visitors an unparalleled opportunity to experience the mesmerizing artistry of Katsushika Hokusai, whose profound influence continues to resonate with art enthusiasts worldwide.

Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849) secured his place in history with the creation of *The Great Wave*, originally featured in his acclaimed series, *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*. This seminal artwork captures the eternal harmony between man and nature, serving as the focal point for an enchanting exploration into Hokusai's extensive body of work comprising an estimated 30,000 prints spanning his illustrious 70-year career.



Under the wave off Kanagawa ('The Great Wave'), from *Thirty-six Views of Mt Fuji*, late 1831. Color woodblock print. Japan. 2008,3008.1JA © Trustees of the British Museum. Acquired with the assistance of Art Fund and a contribution from the Brooke Sewell Bequest.

At the heart of this exhibition lies a beautifully preserved early example of *The Great Wave*, radiating the raw power and beauty of nature, a testament to Hokusai's artistic vision. However, this remarkable collaboration between Bowers Museum and the British Museum goes beyond the familiar and presents a diverse array of Hokusai's works, showcasing pieces produced right up to his passing at the remarkable age of 90.

"We are thrilled to present *Beyond the Great Wave: Works by Hokusai from the British Museum* at Bowers Museum," said Alfred Haft, the curator coordinating this extraordinary exhibition.

2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana, California 92706
bowers.org | Tel 714.567.3600 | Fax 714.567.3603

Accredited by  American Alliance of Museums

Beyond the Great Wave offers visitors a unique opportunity to delve into Hokusai's personal beliefs, revealed through a captivating selection of over 100 paintings, drawings, woodblock prints, and illustrated books. These artworks provide insights into his early career, rise to fame, fascination with the natural and supernatural realms, personal life, and his quest for immortality through his art. Hokusai's creations stand distinct from the art of his Japanese contemporaries, characterized by an intensely individual, subjective, energized, and sublime style, promising a powerfully emotional and spiritual experience to all who attend.

Though Hokusai never left Japan during his lifetime, his artistic brilliance transcended geographical boundaries, captivating the hearts and minds of European artists and collectors, including luminaries such as Monet and Van Gogh. *Beyond the Great Wave* features biographical portraits of six individuals who played a pivotal role in building the Hokusai collection at the British Museum. These scholars and proponents of Japanese art appreciated and understood Hokusai's genius, skill, and boundless invention, solidifying his lasting impact on the world of art.



Kohada Koheiji, from *One Hundred Ghost Tales*, about 1833. Color woodblock print. Japan.
2016,3015.2 © Trustees of the British Museum.
Purchase funded by the Theresia Gerda Buch bequest in memory of her parents Rudolph and Julie Buch.

The British Museum

The presentation of this exhibition is a collaboration between the British Museum and the Bowers Museum.

Art Fund

About Bowers Museum:

Located in the historic heart of Orange County, Bowers Museum's 9 permanent collection exhibitions showcase art and artifacts from cultures around the world with a particular focus on the art and culture of Asia and the Pacific. As the largest and one of the oldest museums in Orange County, Bowers has been voted 'Best Museum' in Orange County for the past 29 years. Partnering with world-class institutions, Bowers Museum's featured exhibitions include blockbusters such as *Terracotta Warriors; Mummies: Death and the Afterlife in Ancient Egypt...Treasures from the British Museum; Lucy's Legacy: The Hidden Treasure of Ethiopia; Holy Land: Dead Sea Scrolls, House of David Inscription; and Guo Pei: Art of Couture*. Learn more at bowers.org.

BOWERS MUSEUM

2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana, California 92706
bowers.org | Tel 714.567.3600 | Fax 714.567.3603

