

SPENCER MUSEUM OF ART

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

For immediate release

Koizumi's woodblock prints depict Japan's changing times, culture

Feb. 5—March 20, 2005

Kress Gallery

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Lawrence, KS— On 11:58 a.m. on Sept. 1, 1923, an earthquake struck Tokyo and eastern Japan with devastating force. A vigorous rebuilding campaign restored the city and transformed it into the imperial capital. This reconstruction allowed for the creation of new spaces and structures, such as monumental commercial and government buildings, increased public transportation and communication systems, as well as parks, museums and hotels, that embodied the progressive changes occurring in Japanese urban society. One of the woodblock print artists who captured the drama of Tokyo's rebirth was Koizumi Kishio (1893-1945), who created One Hundred Pictures of Great Tokyo in the Showa Era (Showa dai Tokyo hyakuzue) from 1928-1940.

This portfolio of Koizumi's prints sets the stage for ***Tokyo: The Imperial Capital—Woodblock prints by Koizumi Kishio, 1928-1940***, a national traveling exhibition depicting the evolution of a key Asian city as it embraced modernity, maintained traditions, and became the backdrop for the militaristic ambitions of empire. On loan from The Wolfsonian—Florida

International University, ***Tokyo: The Imperial Capital*** will be on view in the Spencer's Kress Gallery from Feb. 5 through March 20.

Organized by The Wolfsonian-Florida International University, Miami Beach, Fla., ***Tokyo: The Imperial Capital*** is made possible by the generous support of Frederic A. and Jean S. Sharf. The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation generously supports the Spencer Museum of Art venue.

The World Company, parent company of Sunflower Broadband Channel 6, lawrence.com, and several area newspapers including the Lawrence Journal-World, provides local corporate sponsorship of this exhibition.

In cooperation with KU's Kenneth Spencer Research Library, the Spencer will augment ***Tokyo: The Imperial Capital*** with a collection of post-earthquake imagery that once belonged to Ms. Kate Ingeborg Hansen, a native Kansan who was living and working in Japan at the time of the earthquake. The Spencer will also include a selection of Edo period (1615-1868) woodblock prints from the museum's permanent collection. Providing scenes of capital life prior to the city's reconstruction, these prints show specific locations within Tokyo, which Koizumi Kishio has depicted almost a century later, in a drastically different political and social climate. The various artists of these prints depicted their city as a relatively peaceful place, where the concern with social position and the world of fleeting desires took precedence over modernization and international relations. Through depictions of landscapes, temples, and everyday activities in and around Tokyo, these artists expressed pride in the distinctive areas of the flourishing capital.

The images produced by Koizumi are a pantheon of impressive views—from modern facilities such as Haneda Airport to nostalgic renderings of revered ancient temples. These prints provide a visual record of Tokyo's physical reconstruction and development as the city ushered in a new era of modernity that was integrated with Japan's concurrent social and cultural values.

Related Programming

2.10

Student Night: 7-9 PM / SMA Central Court and galleries

2.12

Children's Art Appreciation class: "Images of Tokyo" / 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

2.13

East Asian Film Festival: 2 PM / Sponsored by the Center for East Asian Studies

2.17

Woodblock print demonstration: Artist Sally Piller / 5:30 PM / Central Court

2.17

Film: "Lost in Translation" / 7 PM / SMA Auditorium

2.18

East Asian Film Festival: 7 PM / Sponsored by the Center for East Asian Studies

2.24

Tour du Jour: Intern Hillary Pedersen / 12:15 PM / Kress Gallery

3.10

Lecture: Ken Brown on "Different Images of Tokyo: Different Ideas of Modern Japan" / 7 PM / SMA Auditorium

-30-

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Also find the Spencer...

- On the Web: www.spencerart.ku.edu
- E-mail: spencerart@ku.edu

Gallery hours

Tues., Wed., Fri., & Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Thurs. 10a.m.–9 p.m.

Sun. Noon–5 p.m.

Closed Monday

- Free parking in Lot 91 after 5 p.m. on weekdays and all day weekends, excepting home football games.
- Parking garage adjacent to Kansas Union is \$1 per hour weekdays, free on Saturdays and Sundays (but unavailable on home football games).