



PRESENTS

# KIDSEUM AT HOME

*Creative fun and learning for the entire family,  
all from the comfort of home!*



Introduction  
to  
JAPANESE  
INSPIRED  
ART PRINTS

# 1

## JAPANESE KIMONO PRINTS

### AGES

8 -10 years old

### SKILL LEVEL

Beginner/Intermediate

### DESCRIPTION

For this project we will be making stamps and using them to try to create a section of fabric from a Kimono.

### MATERIALS

Satin-Like fabric	Sponges (Makeup)
Painting Palette	Glue Stick
Cardboard	Sharpie / Pencil
Acrylic Paint	Brushes
Scissors	White Paper
Masking Tape	Water Cup

Materials with an (\*) are optional, use only if available.



### Background

The word **Kimono** is made up of two words, ki (“wear”) and mono (“thing”), meaning a thing that you wear. This item of traditional Japanese clothing requires several pieces to be worn **precisely** and correctly. Kimonos can be worn by both men and women since they are made using a variety of colors, patterns and styles.

The color of a Kimono can vary from dark to light, using plants and other natural pigment sources for dyes. The colors in a Kimono hold **symbolic** importance to the Japanese, who believe the spirit of the plant used to dye the cloth will transfer onto the clothing and provide the wearer with its unique **properties**. For example, **indigo** is often used to make a blue dye. This plant can also be used to treat insect stings and snake bites. Therefore, it is believed that cloth dyed using Indigo will **ward** off those same pests.

Kimonos were traditionally made of **silk** and woven on a **loom**. More recently they have been made using other materials such as cotton and polyester, however, many still prefer silk because of its texture and overall appearance. The material of a Kimono dictates the patterns that can be woven into it. These designs or **patterns** also hold great importance because they can demonstrate the wealth and values of the wearer.

Kimonos are primarily worn during festivals, celebrations, or just to give tourists the opportunity to **embrace** Japanese culture. There are several kimonos in the Bowers Museum’s collection, and several on display in our galleries. One specific example is called a **Furisode**. A Furisode is a type of kimono that has long sleeves and is given to a woman when she turns 20. At this age a woman is considered an adult and has all the rights that come with it, including the right to vote, but must take responsibility for their actions. While a woman is single, she can wear her Furisodes to ceremonies, weddings and festivals. This is done with the hope of attracting a **suitor**, as Furisodes tend to be bright, bold and colorful. Once a woman is to marry, she is no longer allowed to wear her Furisodes but they are kept to be passed down to her children.

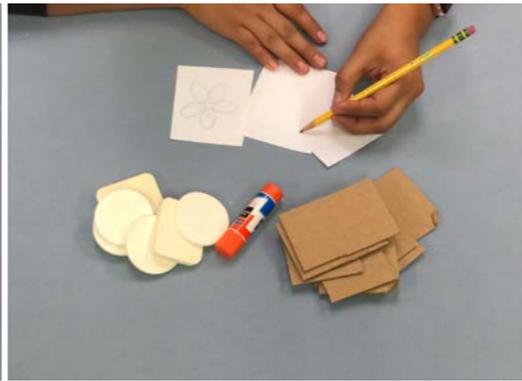
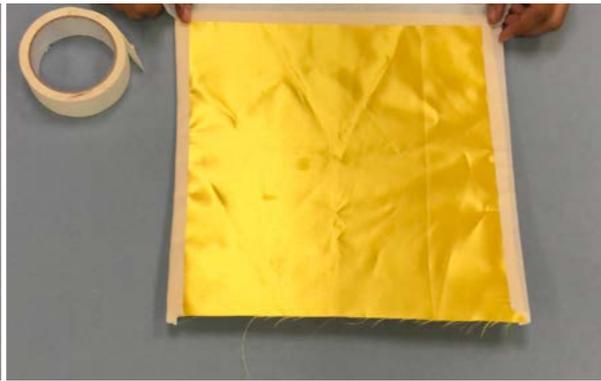
There are many other types of Kimonos and every one of them is unique, beautiful and meaningful.

### Fun Facts

- A **Furisode** is a formal kimono traditionally worn by single adult women. This kimono has long sleeves and is meant to catch the eye of young unmarried men.
- A **Hikizuri** is worn by wealthy women. This type of kimono is rare and only seen on geisha’s, maiko or Japanese performers.
- A **Tomesode** is a kimono only worn by married women. This kimono tends to be simple and usually made in black.
- A **Houmingi** is worn by both married and unmarried women for small events or parties.
- An **Iro Muji** is a type of kimono that carries minimal color or designs, to avoid attention. These are worn for graduations, funerals or small celebrations.
- A **Komon** is a common type of kimono that is worn casually and not for events. This type of kimono is often seen on tourists.
- A **Yukata** is a lightweight kimono that is worn during the summer or during hot days. Since kimonos require several layers, it became important to create one suitable for the heat.
- A **Wedding** kimono is worn by a bride on her wedding day. This kimono is pure white and is meant to amplify the beauty of the bride.
- A **Men’s** kimono is simple, using mostly dark colors and is not worn as often in modern times.

## Procedure

1. Take your fabric and tape it onto a large piece of cardboard. Set it aside.
2. Use your pencil to sketch the designs you want for your stamps. Make sure to make them simple or they will be difficult to cut out later.
3. Copy your designs onto several sponges with a sharpie.
4. Use scissors to cut out all the designs on your sponges. Also cut out an equal number of small square pieces of cardboard that your designs will fit onto.
5. Glue each of your sponge designs onto a piece of cardboard.
6. Using a brush, lightly apply paint on the surface of your first sponge stamp.
7. Take the painted stamp and place it on the fabric. Lightly press down.
8. Lift the stamp to reveal your print.
9. Repeat this with the same or different stamps. Alternate and mix colors as well.
10. You can also take a brush and add small details as needed.
11. When you are satisfied with your pattern, allow it to dry completely and clean up.
12. Once dry, remove the tape to reveal your kimono fabric sample.



## Key Vocabulary

<b>Kimono</b> a long, Japanese garment, closing across the front of the body and having wide sleeves and a broad sash.	<b>Precise</b> accurate; exact.	<b>Symbolic</b> of, relating to, or represented by a symbol.
<b>Properties</b> a characteristic or essential quality or attribute.	<b>Indigo</b> a blue dye obtained from various plants or made synthetically.	<b>Ward</b> to avert, prevent, or turn aside
<b>Silk</b> a fine, soft, shiny fiber produced by certain insects, esp. by the silkworm in spinning a cocoon.	<b>Loom</b> a device or machine for weaving fabric.	<b>Pattern</b> a regular or formal design, esp. one used to decorate something.
<b>Embrace</b> a regular or formal design, esp. one used to decorate something.	<b>Furisode</b> the most formal style of kimono worn by unmarried women in Japan.	<b>Responsible</b> having personal accountability for assigned duties and tasks.
<b>Suitor</b> a man courting or seeking to marry a woman.		

Source: Image Credit: Wedding Furisode Kimono (Furisode), c. 1900 Japanese Silk and thread F78.62.1

Bowers Museum Purchase Bowers Museum. Japanese Wedding Kimono. <https://www.bowers.org/index.php/collection/collection-blog/japanese-wedding-kimono> Accessed August 3, 2020.

My Modern Met. The Unique History and Fascinating Evolution of the Japanese Kimono. <https://mymodernmet.com/japanese-kimono/>. Accessed August 3, 2020.

Japanese Kimono. What is Furisode? It's the best kimono for girls. <http://japanese-kimono.net/furisode-kimono/> Accessed August 6, 2020.

Wonderland Japan WAttention. Know Different Kimono Types. <https://wattention.com/know-different-kimono-types/> Accessed August 6, 2020.

# 2

## MAKING A SATSUMA, JAPANESE CERAMIC POT

### AGES

5-7 years old

### SKILL LEVEL

Beginner

### DESCRIPTION

For this project we will be making a small teapot using clay and the pinch-pot method. Once dry, we will paint and decorate it similarly to the Satsuma pottery style.

### MATERIALS

Model Magic Clay	Brushes	Water Cup
Paper	Acrylic Paint (various)	Napkins
Pencil	Gold Acrylic Paint	

Materials with an (\*) are optional, use only if available.

### MUSIC

Listen to music curated for this lesson!

Check out the **Spotify Playlist:**

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/49BCKT1CiaiqGNt6514145?si=o3xtPnQ8RAiwqxXiwV08Q>

### Background

**Pottery** is one of the cultural treasures of Japan. This is especially true of pottery that was historically made for the **elite** class or for rituals and ceremonies. One such type of pottery is known as Satsuma.

Satsuma pottery is a style that was inspired by Korean and Chinese pottery. This type of pottery has been dated as early as the 17th century, when Japan invaded **Korea**. During these invasions, Japan captured many local potters and forced them to move to Japan. They were then forced to produce ceramic **wares** that were sold to **profit** Japanese authorities. Regardless of their circumstances, the Korean prisoners made work which **fused** their own styles with Japanese designs and ancient Chinese ceramics, thus creating Satsuma pottery.

This fusion gave satsuma pottery a **distinct** appearance. They were highly **recognizable** and highly **sought** after by the elite class. They were also **exclusive** to the upper class and inaccessible to the lower class. These pieces were kept within Japan and passed down family lines. At this time, Japan had closed off any trade or business with other countries. However, in 1854 Japan signed the "Treaty of Peace and Amity" with the United States to allow trade with the West. This resulted in a huge demand for Japanese artwork for trade, including Satsuma pottery. This demand led to the **mass production** of this pottery, which in turn decreased the **quality** and value of satsuma wares. These pieces can now be found at antique shops and don't hold as much value as they historically had. The examples that do retain their value are the works originally made by Korean prisoners. Many of these examples are housed in museums, including the Bowers Museum.

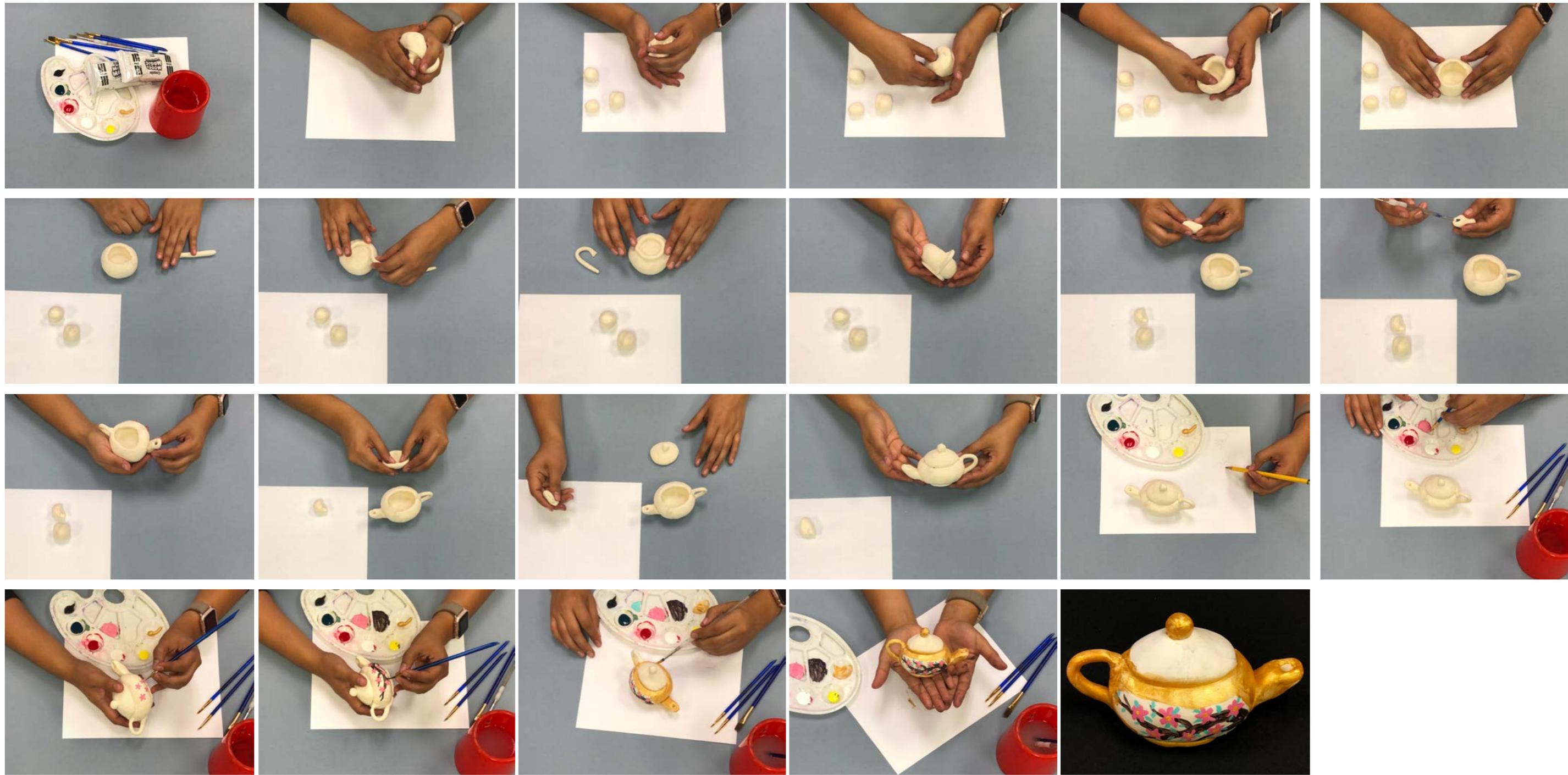
### Fun Facts

- The Satsuma Vase: the most collected piece, usually only sold as part of the tea set.
- Satsuma Buttons: these small ceramic buttons adorned the clothing of the aristocracy.
- Satsuma Tea Set: these sets were made to be used during the Japanese tea ceremony.
- Satsuma Figures and Statues: these small figures feature important people or deities.
- Satsuma Bowls, Plates and Dishes: these small pieces are hand painted with people, plants, animals and landscapes.



## Prep

1. Open your clay packets and knead the clay.
2. Separate your clay into sections- three small balls and one larger one
3. Take the larger ball and poke your thumb in the middle but do not poke through the other end.
4. Use your fingers to pinch the clay into a cup shape.
5. Place your cup shape on a table and press down to flatten the bottom.
6. Take a small ball of clay and roll it out.
7. Turn your cup over and place your rolled-out clay on the bottom in a circular shape. This will form the foot of your cup.
8. Cut off any excess and use it to make a handle on the side of your cup. Attach it by pressing lightly.
9. Take another small ball and form a cylinder shape with your hands.
10. Using the end of a brush, poke a hole on one end to form a spout.
11. Attach it to the side opposite of the handle.
12. Take the last ball of clay and pinch it into a small lid shape, with a small ball on top for a handle. Make sure the lid fits over the opening before attaching.
13. Leave everything to dry for a few hours. In the meantime, sketch out any designs you plan to paint on your teapot.
14. Begin painting, using inspiration from the Satsuma pottery or Japanese art. Add details and use several colors.
15. Using gold paint, cover any remaining empty space on the teapot, similar to the Satsuma pieces.
16. Leave it to dry and clean up.



## Key Vocabulary

<p><b>Pottery</b> ceramic ware such as mugs, plates, bowls, and vases.</p>	<p><b>Precious</b> of great worth or value.</p>	<p><b>Elite</b> those having the greatest authority or privilege or highest status.</p>
<p><b>Korea</b> A region in eastern Asia that forms a peninsula between the East Sea and the Yellow Sea, now divided into the countries of North Korea and South Korea.</p>	<p><b>Ware</b> manufactured products or other articles of commerce, including salable skills, knowledge, or the like; goods.</p>	<p><b>Profit</b> a benefit or gain.</p>
<p><b>Fuse</b> to cause to merge, coalesce, or combine, esp. by or as if by melting together.</p>	<p><b>Distinct</b> clearly different or set apart; separate</p>	<p><b>Recognizable</b> that which can be identified.</p>
<p><b>Sought</b> having been looked for.</p>	<p><b>Exclusive</b> closing out all others from sharing or participating in; sole.</p>	<p><b>Mass Produce</b> is the manufacturing of large quantities of standardized products, often using assembly lines or automation technology.</p>
<p><b>Quality</b> degree of value or excellence.</p>		

Source: Image Credit: Teapot, Meiji period (1868-1912) - Taisho period (1912-1926) Japanese; Japan Porcelain; Teapot with lid: 5 3/4 x 5 1/4 x 3 1/4 in. 2012.23.47b Mrs. Bernyce Besso

Bowers Museum. Satsuma: Japanese Ceramics. <https://www.bowers.org/index.php/collection/collection-blog/satsuma-japanese-ceramics>. Accessed August 6, 2020.

Satsuma Pottery. What is Satsuma Pottery? <https://www.satsuma-pottery.com/>. Accessed August 7, 2020.

In Good Taste. The Hidden History of Satsuma Pottery. <https://www.invaluable.com/blog/satsuma-pottery/> <https://www.invaluable.com/blog/satsuma-pottery/>. Accessed August 6, 2020.

## 3

## CARDBOARD BLOCK PRINTS

## AGES

14-17 years old

## SKILL LEVEL

Advanced

## DESCRIPTION

For this project we will be making prints inspired by Japanese woodblock print using cardboard and ink.

## MATERIALS

Cardboard	Printing Ink (various)
Pencil	Scissors
Gloves	Tracing Paper
Cutting Mat	Plexi-Glass Sheet
Chipboard	Brayers
Printmaking Paper	X-acto Knife

Materials with an (\*) are optional, use only if available.

## Background

During the Edo and Meiji Periods (1603-1921) in Japan many new artistic styles and methods began to emerge and **flourish**. Aside from ceramics, colored woodblock prints also gained a lot of attention due to their beauty, **intricacies** and detail.

Prior to 1603, woodblock printing was a process used only to reproduce information on hand scrolls by Buddhist monks to multiply their texts faster and more accurately than by handwriting. But with advances in technology, this soon changed. As new technologies introduced faster methods for printing, this medium went from being strictly **utilitarian** to being used for artistic expression. Because of this change, we can view these types of works in museums and even learn the technique ourselves.

To fully appreciate art, the viewer must first understand the effort and **labor** that went into creating the work. When looking at colored woodblock prints, we are easily **deceived** by their beauty. Oftentimes, the images are so perfect that we fail to recognize that every color in a woodblock print needed a separate carving. This meant that several artists would work together to create one single image.

Traditionally one artist would draw the **initial** image. This image was then given to an **engraver** who would create a negative of the image and transfer the drawing onto several wood blocks. This would sometimes require anywhere from 10-20 blocks depending on the complexity of the image and its color **palette**. These blocks were then carved by several other artists, each carving a specific object or detail in the initial image. Once all the blocks were carved, several printers worked together to complete the final result. They were required to apply color to the blocks and press them onto the same paper. Each block print was then layered over the previous one until the image was completed. If one block was misplaced it would **distort** the image and they would have to start over again. Therefore, the printers needed to work together and in a timely manner to get the image right.

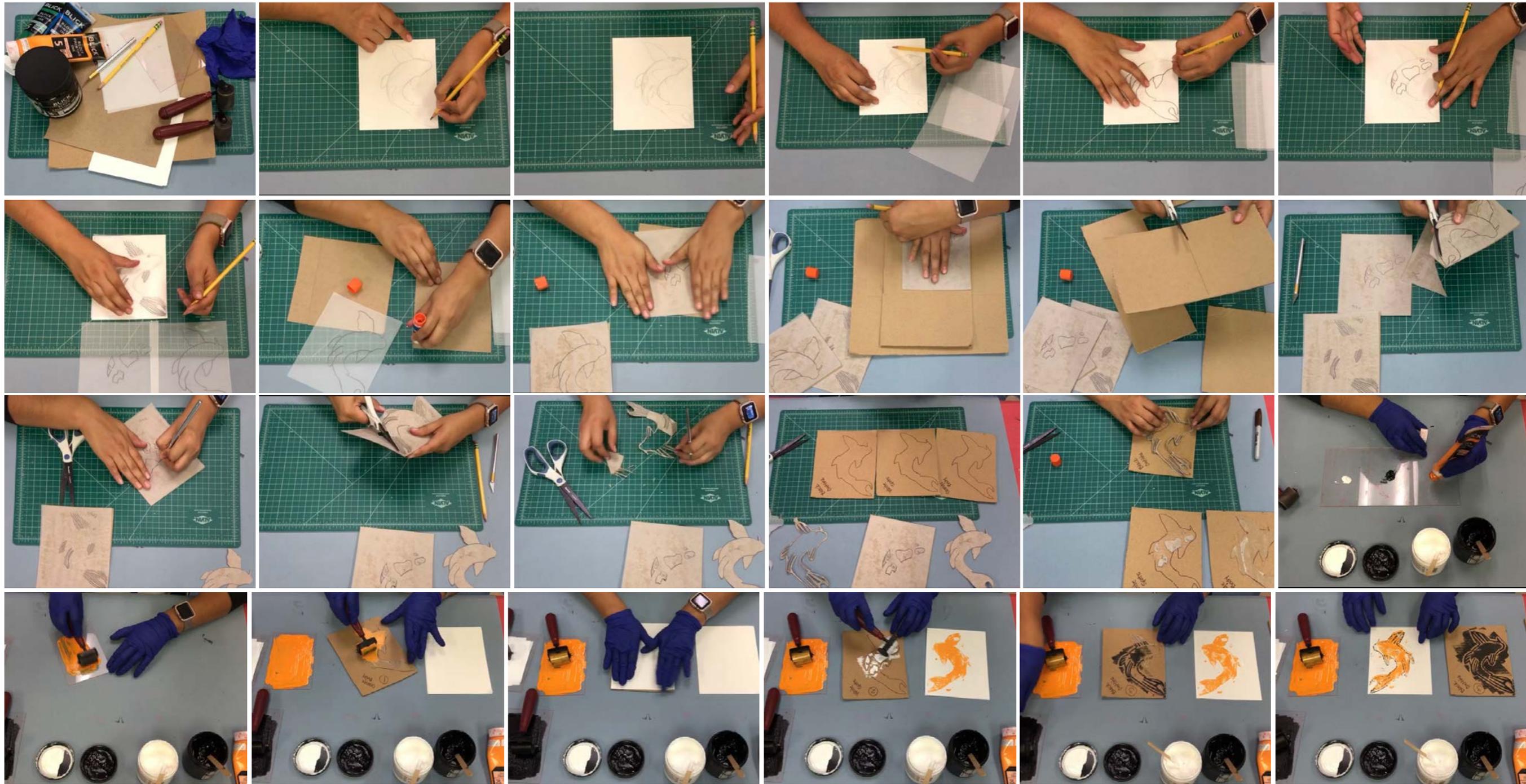
During this time many artists **arose to fame** and were creating fantastic woodblock prints. These would feature nature, landscapes, **sumo wrestlers**, **kabuki** actors, **geisha** and historical scenes. The colors were also highly important and allowed the prints to stand out more than their **monochromatic** predecessors. Depending on the ink used, these prints would withstand fading, therefore increasing their value over time. As time went on, and technology improved, so did this technique. As art began to be mass produced, their value decreased. Therefore, you can own a print of these artworks but it possibly would not hold the same worth as the ones originally made by over 10 individual artists.

Woodblock prints not only display the beauty of Japanese culture and landscapes, but they also demonstrate the **dedication** and precision that the Japanese artists had in representing their homeland.



## Procedure

1. Begin by sketching out your image on a piece of paper. Make sure you cut this paper to the desired woodblock before starting.
2. Take three pieces of tracing paper (cut to size) and trace different sections of your image.
3. The first layer can be the outline, the second can be the defining features and the third can be small details. Keep in mind that the more complex your image is, the more work it will require to make.
4. After the tracing is done, take three pieces of chipboard (cut to size) and glue the tracing paper onto each.
5. Take your cardboard and trace one of your chipboard pieces three times and cut out those pieces.
6. Once the tracing paper is dry, take an X-acto knife or scissors and cut out the sections of each part.
7. Be careful not to destroy or cut pieces that will be necessary.
8. Take three pieces of cardboard (cut to size) and take the outline tracing paper edges and trace the inside onto the three cardboard pieces. This will help you when gluing.
9. When ready, take the cut pieces and glue them to their corresponding cardboard piece.
10. Make sure to title them to prevent losing your place.
11. Once the pieces are dry, you can begin inking the plates.
12. Take plexi-glass sheets and spread out 3 ink colors.
13. Using brayers roll out the ink until the ink begins to sound sticky. This means they're ready.
14. Take one brayer and ink the first stamp (this should be the background layer).
15. Once inked, place on your paper and lift.
16. Ink your next stamp with a different color and place it over the inked paper.
17. Repeat with the last color until all three stamps have been layered.
18. Allow to dry. You can make more or change the colors. If your prints don't come out perfect just keep trying but overall have fun.



## Key Vocabulary

<b>Flourish</b> to do well; succeed; prosper.	<b>Intricacies</b> the state of being complex and involved in construction or aspect.	<b>Utilitarian</b> designed to be useful, without regard for appearance or other qualities.
<b>Labor</b> the expenditure of physical and mental effort in the performance of work.	<b>Deceived</b> to lead (a person) to believe something that is untrue; mislead; trick; defraud.	<b>Initial</b> of the beginning; first.
<b>Engraver</b> a person who is trained to cut (a design or lettering) into a hard, flat surface, as by a sharp implement or acid, often for the purpose of making a plate for printing.	<b>Palette</b> the range of colors used in a particular painting or by a specified painter.	<b>Distort</b> to twist out of shape; deform the appearance or functioning of.
<b>Arose</b> to come into view or existence; emerge.	<b>Sumo Wrestler</b> a Japanese form of heavyweight wrestling, in which a wrestler wins a bout by forcing his opponent outside a marked circle or by making him touch the ground with any part of his body except the soles of his feet.	<b>Kabuki</b> a form of traditional Japanese drama with highly stylized song, mime, and dance, now performed only by male actors, using exaggerated gestures and body movements to express emotions, and including historical plays, domestic dramas, and dance pieces.
<b>Geisha</b> a Japanese hostess trained to entertain men with conversation, dance, and song.	<b>Monochromatic</b> having or using only a single color or shades of one color.	<b>Dedication</b> the condition of being solely focused and putting your efforts on anything.

Source: Image Credit: Boats at Shinagawa, Night, mid to late 20th Century Tsuchiya Koitsu (Japanese, 1870–1949) Woodblock print on paper; 18 x 13 in. 98.17.5A Gift of Ms. Alice B. Marshall Bowers Museum. What Became of the Floating World. <https://www.bowers.org/index.php/collection/collection-blog/what-became-of-the-floating-world>. Accessed August 7, 2020.

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In Good Taste. What You Should Know About Japanese Woodblock Prints. <https://www.invaluable.com/blog/japanese-woodblock-prints/>, Accessed August 7, 2020.

## State and National Standards

### Japanese Kimono Prints

California Content Standards:

**HSS-1.5.3**

Compare the beliefs, customs, ceremonies, traditions, and social practices of the varied cultures, drawing from folklore.

Visual and Performing Arts Standards

**3VA.Cr2.6**

Create an original work of art emphasizing rhythm and movement, using a selected printing process.

**5VA.His3.2**

Identify and describe various fine, traditional, and folk arts from historical periods worldwide.

### Making a Satsuma, Japanese Ceramic Pot

State Content Standards:

**HSS-1.5.3**

Compare the beliefs, customs, ceremonies, traditions, and social practices of the varied cultures, drawing from folklore.

Visual and Performing Art Standards.

**KVA.His3.1**

Describe functional and non utilitarian art seen in daily life; that is, works of art that are used versus those that are only viewed.

**1VA.Cr2.3**

Demonstrate beginning skill in the manipulation and use of sculptural materials (clay, paper, and papier maché) to create form and texture in works of art.

### Cardboard Block Prints

State Content Standards:

**HSS-10.3**

Students analyze the effects of the Industrial Revolution in England, France, Germany, Japan, and the United States

Visual and Performing Arts Standards:

**9-12PVA.Con5.2**

Create a work of art that communicates a cross-cultural or universal theme taken from literature or history.

**9-12AVA.Cre2.1**

Create original works of art of increasing complexity and skill reflect their feelings and points of view.

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