

16 March 2010

Japanese sea prints and a Founder's album: print exhibitions opening at the Fitzwilliam in May

Gifts of the Ebb Tide

Japan and the Sea in Ukiyo-e Prints

18 May - 15 August 2010

Like Britain, Japan is a series of islands, and the pervasive presence of the sea has shaped Japanese lives and art. This selection of woodcut prints and books from the Fitzwilliam's collection illustrates the relationship between Japanese people and the sea, from the mythical to the everyday: the underwater palace of the Dragon King, ghosts of warriors rising from the waves, favourite beaches for picnics and shell collecting, fishermen hauling in their catch – and restaurants serving it.

Visitors will have the chance to see an impression of the world's most famous image of the raw power of the sea, Hokusai's woodcut of 'The Great Wave' which is on loan from The British Museum. There will also be an opportunity to explore the interactive version of Utamaro's *Gifts of the Ebb Tide*, allowing visitors to 'turn the pages' of the book.



Kitagawa Utamaro (c.1753-1806),
Gifts of the Ebb Tide (detail)
Woodcut book, 1789
Bought with a contribution from The Art Fund,
2000

Prized Possessions

Lord Fitzwilliam's Album of Prints after Adam Elsheimer

25 May - 26 September 2010

In 1816, Lord Fitzwilliam bequeathed his substantial art collection - including 198 print albums - to the University of Cambridge, in an act that founded the Fitzwilliam Museum. This display focuses upon one of those albums; a collection of prints derived from the paintings of German artist Adam Elsheimer (1578-1610).

The second in the Museum's 'Hidden Depths' series casting light on lesser-known aspects of the collection, *Prized Possessions* reveals the varied responses by printmakers captivated by Elsheimer's deployment of light and atmospheric rendering of nature. Reconstructing the arrangement of the album, which was taken apart some time during the last century, this exhibition explores the allure of Elsheimer not only for printmakers, but for print collectors, in particular Lord Fitzwilliam himself.



Magdalena van de Passe, (1596-1638),
after Adam Elsheimer (1578-1610)
Apollo and Coronis
Engraving, c.1623

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Gifts of the Ebb Tide: Japan and the Sea in Ukiyo-e Prints

18 May – 15 August 2010

Prized Possessions: Lord Fitzwilliam's Album of Prints after Adam Elsheimer

25 May – 26 September 2010

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RB

OPEN: Tuesday – Saturday: 10.00 – 17.00
Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays: 12.00 – 17.00

ADMISSION FREE

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Notes for Editors

The Fitzwilliam Museum

The Fitzwilliam Museum houses the University of Cambridge's art collection and is a public museum and art gallery with an international reputation. More than half a million objects and works of art are held in five curatorial departments: Antiquities, Applied Arts, Coins and Medals, Manuscripts and Printed Books and Paintings, Drawings and Prints.

The Fitzwilliam's treasures range from Ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman antiquities to the arts of the 21st century and include masterpieces by Titian, Canaletto, Stubbs, Constable, Monet, Renoir and Picasso, one of the world's foremost Rembrandt print collections, Handel music manuscripts and the famous Fitzwilliam Virginal Book, one of the most significant collections of Korean ceramics outside South-East Asia, medieval illuminated manuscripts and outstanding collections of pottery, porcelain and medieval coins.

The Fitzwilliam Museum welcomes over 300,000 visitors a year, offers a wide-ranging programme of temporary exhibitions and events, and has an award-winning Education Service. The Museum is open Tuesday – Saturday: 10.00 – 17.00, Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays: 12.00 – 17.00. Free admission.

Website: www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

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