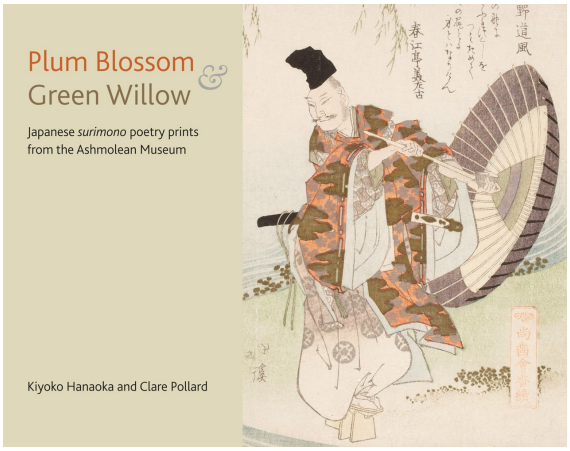
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Plum Blossom and Green Willow

Japanese Surimono Poetry Prints from the Ashmolean Museum

Clare Pollard

Kiyoko Hanaoka

ISBN	9781910807262
Publisher	Ashmolean Museum
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	World excluding Australasia
Size	220 mm x 280 mm
Pages	128 Pages
Illustrations	80 color, 5 b&w
Price	£15.00

- An introduction to the art of *surimono*, illustrated with previously unpublished examples from the Ashmolean Museum's collections
- The works included here have never-published before in any form
- The poems included in the works have been translated into English

Surimono poetry prints are among the finest examples of Japanese woodblock printmaking of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Consisting of witty poetry combined with related images, *surimono* were often designed by leading print artists and were exquisitely produced using the best materials and most sophisticated printing techniques. Unlike the *ukiyo-e* prints of actors, courtesans and landscapes that were being commercially published around the same time, *surimono* were never intended for sale to the general public. Instead they were privately published in limited editions by members of poetry clubs, to present to friends and acquaintances on festive occasions, especially at the New Year.

This book introduces over forty *surimono* in the collection of the Ashmolean Museum and provides readers with an insight into the refined and cultivated Japanese literati culture of the early nineteenth century. As well as exploring the customs, legends, figures and objects depicted, it presents new translations of the humorous poems (*kyoka*) that lie at the heart of *surimono*, and highlights the intricate relationship that existed between the poetry and accompanying images. This will be the first time that the Ashmolean's collection of *surimono*, mostly from the Jennings-Spalding Gift and containing a number of rare and previously unpublished prints, has ever been catalogued.

Clare Pollard is the Curator of Japanese Art at the Ashmolean Museum. **Kiyoko Hanaoka** is a long-serving Volunteer in the Eastern Art Department of the Ashmolean Museum.

Published 24th Sep 2018