



# The Beauty of the Moment

## Women in Japanese Woodblock Prints

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Edited by Katharina Epprecht

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90 color, 12 b&w

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- 100 depictions of women by the best-known masters of Japanese woodblock printing including many prints which are previously unpublished.
- *The Beauty of the Moment* coincides with the exhibition *Die Schönheit des Augenblicks* (The Beauty of the Moment) at Museum Rietberg in Zürich from July to October 2012

During the heyday of the Japanese coloured woodblock print around 1800, an ordinary print filled the same purpose as modern commercial graphic art. Mainly because of European art lovers' growing enthusiasm for these subtle, refined compositions, some artists and their work soon gained worldwide recognition and fame. Capturing the fugitive moment is a key element of Japanese woodblock prints, for which Japanese language has the term *ukiyo-e*, "images of the fluid, transient world". *Bijin-ga*, "images of beautiful women" is a specific kind of such prints, paying tribute to women by capturing a moment of irretrievable beauty. The graceful look of a self-assured beauty or a very private situation's intimacy have stimulated many artists to their greatest works. The new book *The Beauty of the Moment* presents around 100 *Bijin-ga* by the best known masters of Japanese woodblock printing. Included are particularly exquisite pieces using *kirazuri*, a technique using powdered brass or mica dust highly polished on a light film of glue to imitate gold dust on the surface of the print. Text in English and German.

**Katharina Epprecht**, born 1961, is art historian and an expert in Japanese art. She has been a curator at Museum Rietberg in Zürich since 1998.

**Shawn Eichman**, born 1968, is art historian specialising in Chinese, Japanese and Korean art and has been a curator of Asian art at Honolulu Museum of Art since 2007. **Andreas Marks**, born 1973, is an expert in Japanese art. He has been director and chief curator at the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture in Hanford, CA, since 2008. **John Szostak**, born 1964, is art historian specialising in modern Japanese art. He has been a professor of Japanese art at University of Hawaii in Honolulu.

