

Pictures of a Floating World

Japanese Woodblock Printing

Ukiyo-e: Pictures of the Floating World

Ukiyo-e is a genre of [Japanese art](#) which flourished from the 17th through 19th centuries. Its artists produced [woodblock prints](#) and [paintings](#) of such subjects as female beauties; [kabuki](#) actors and [sumo](#) wrestlers; scenes from history and folk tales; travel scenes and landscapes; [flora](#) and [fauna](#); and [erotica](#). The term *ukiyo-e* translates as "picture[s] of the floating world".

In 1603, the city of [Edo](#) ([Tokyo](#)) became the seat of the ruling [Tokugawa shogunate](#). The merchant classes, positioned at the bottom of [the social order](#), benefited the most from city's rapid economic growth, and began to indulge in and patronise the entertainment of kabuki theatre, [geisha](#), and [courtesans](#) of the [pleasure districts](#); the term [ukiyo](#) ("floating world") came to describe this hedonistic lifestyle. Printed or painted *ukiyo-e* works were popular with the merchant class, who had become wealthy enough to afford to decorate their homes with them.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4H4XjlgloQE&t=121s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7lX6xT4efQs>

Hiroshige (1797-1858)

Utagawa Hiroshige, born Andō Hiroshige, was a Japanese ukiyo-e artist, considered the last great master of that tradition. Hiroshige is best known for his horizontal-format landscape series The Fifty-three Stations of the Tōkaidō and for his vertical-format landscape series One Hundred Famous Views of Edo.

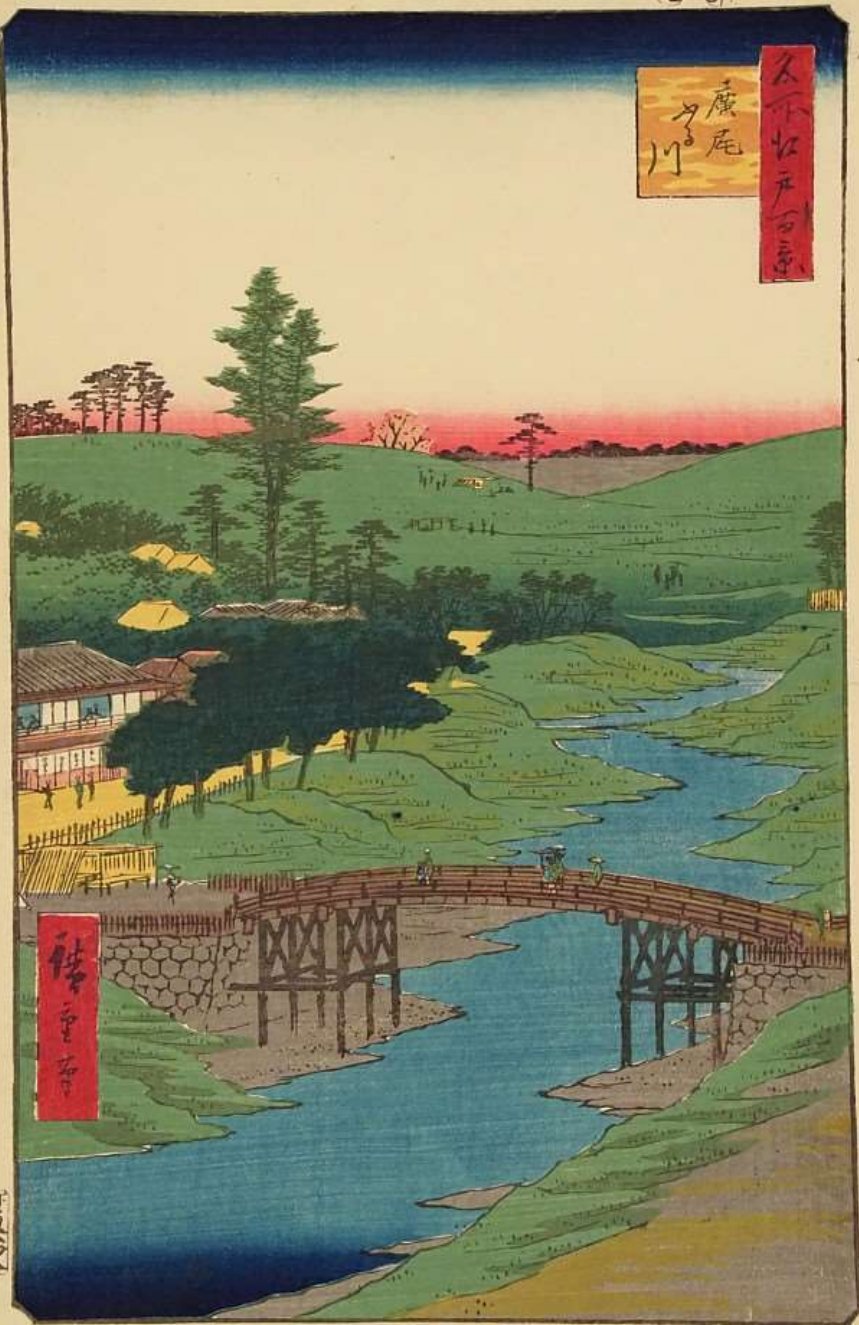
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ld1IDm56dfY>







廣尾
川



廣尾
川

廣尾
川



廣尾
川

東協通
三月
庄野

保来
屋



東海道五拾
三次之内

箱根



横江





東海道
五拾三英里

五山

春土雨

廣重





東海乃五所三ノ内

岡部

半津止山

横重車

山雲

山雲





Hokusai (1760-1849)

Katsushika Hokusai, known simply as Hokusai, was a Japanese artist, ukiyo-e painter and printmaker of the Edo period. Born in Edo, Hokusai is best known as author of the woodblock print series Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji which includes the internationally iconic print, The Great Wave off Kanagawa.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1ufFlXIWjA> (the great wave)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8z9zRbwh43I>

- [Explained: The Traditional Process of Japanese Woodblock Printing - Rising Sun Prints](#) (How Hokusai created the great wave)

富嶽三十六景 神奈川沖
浪裏

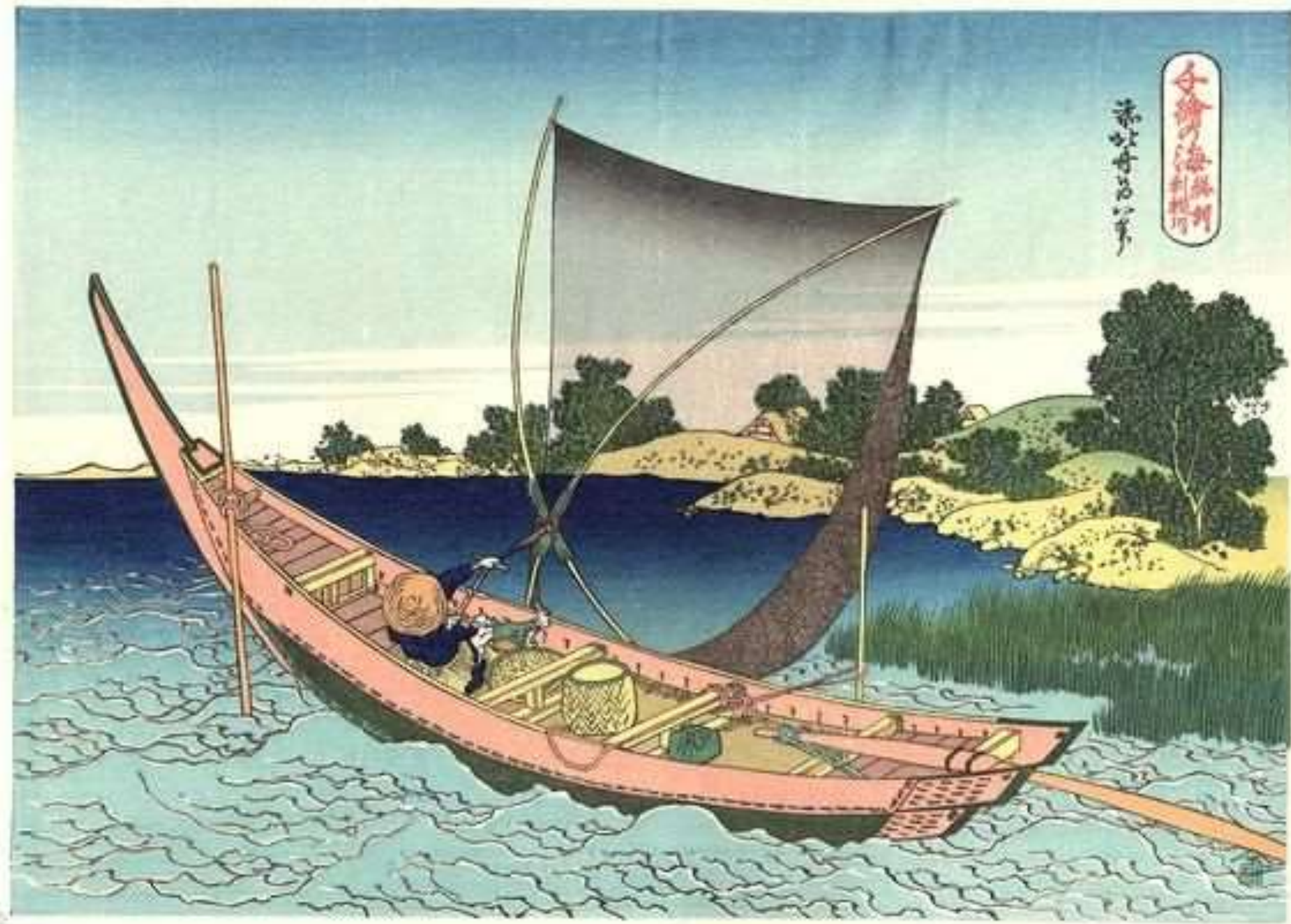
大井川





富士山
下
の
川

富士山
下
の
川



赤坂舟のり

女舟のり



東海道品川

富嶽三十六景
御殿山不二

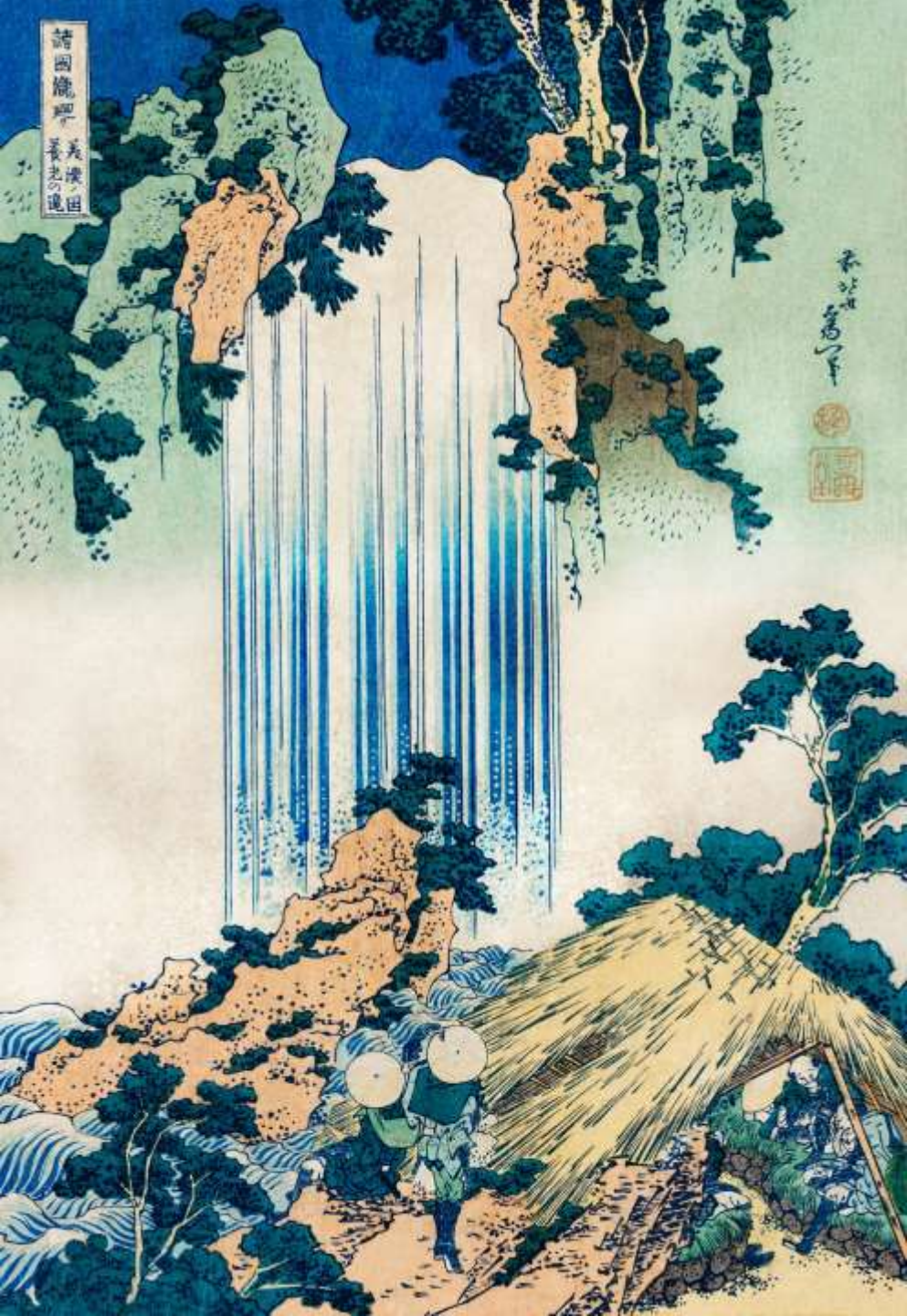


富士三十八景

東海道五十三
里の陣所

舟の陣所





富士山三十六景
東海道仁尾
田子の浦

東海道仁尾
田子の浦







富嶽三十六景
仙州
鎌倉園

青い鳥の巣





富士山
巻五
巻五

巻五
巻五

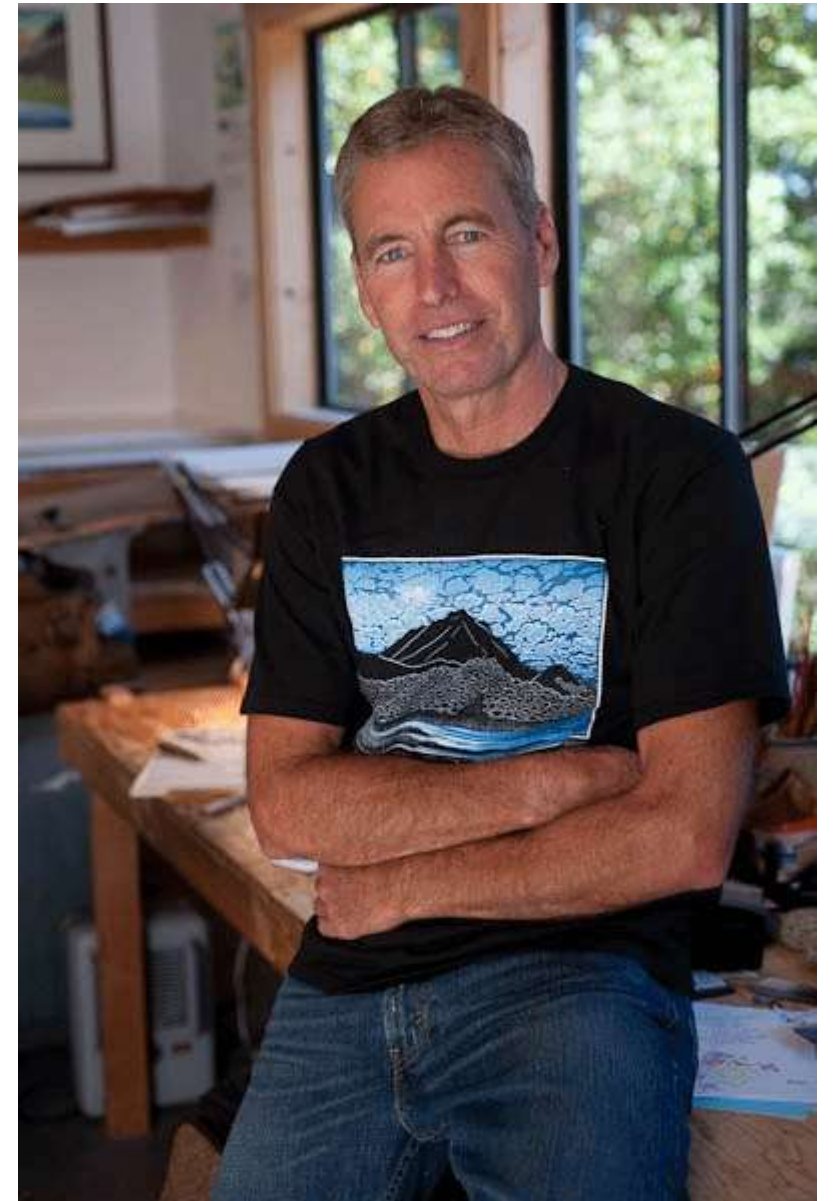
Influence on Western Art

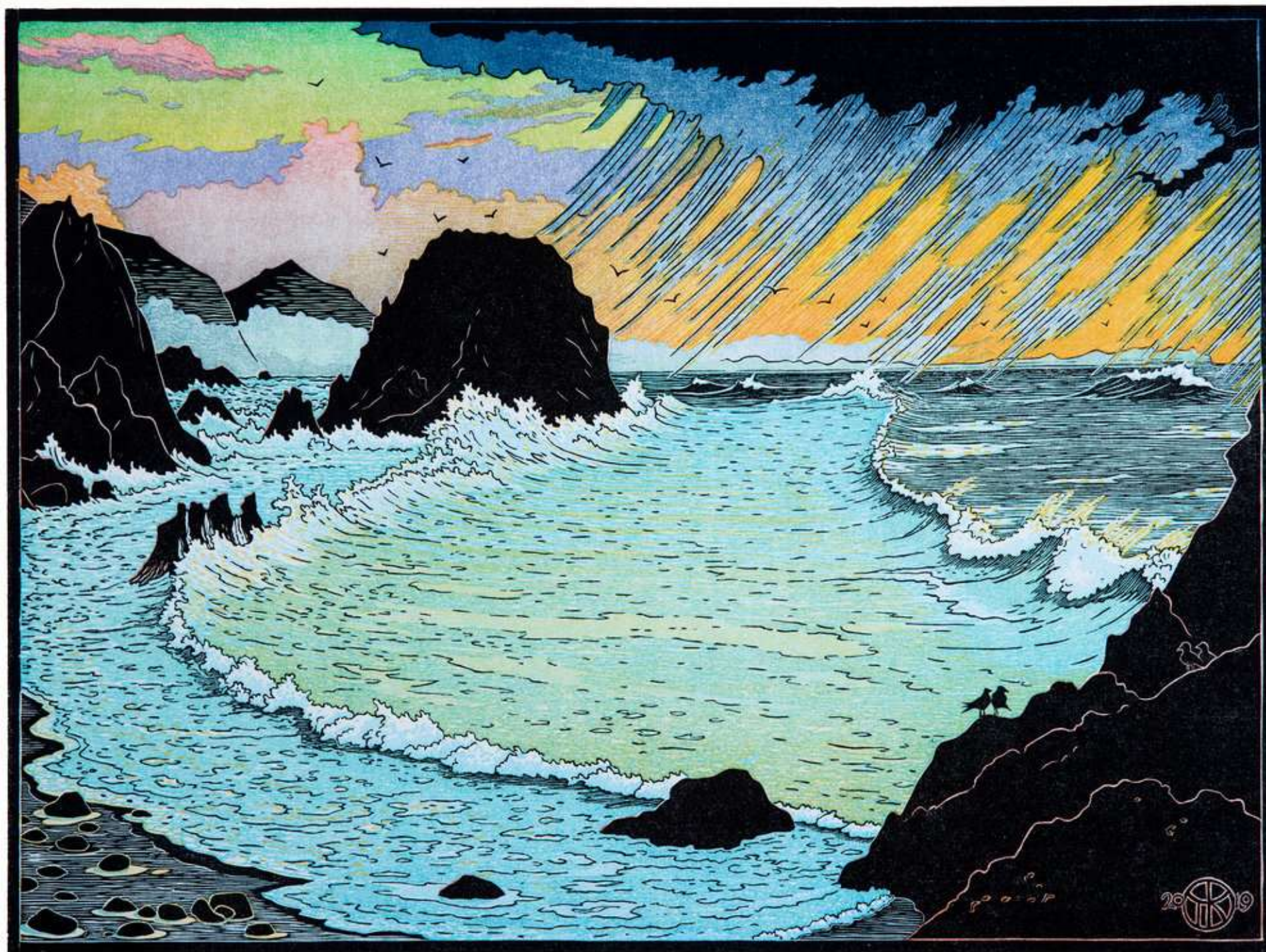
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=boxylJrNxRg>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jvXfux6mTM>

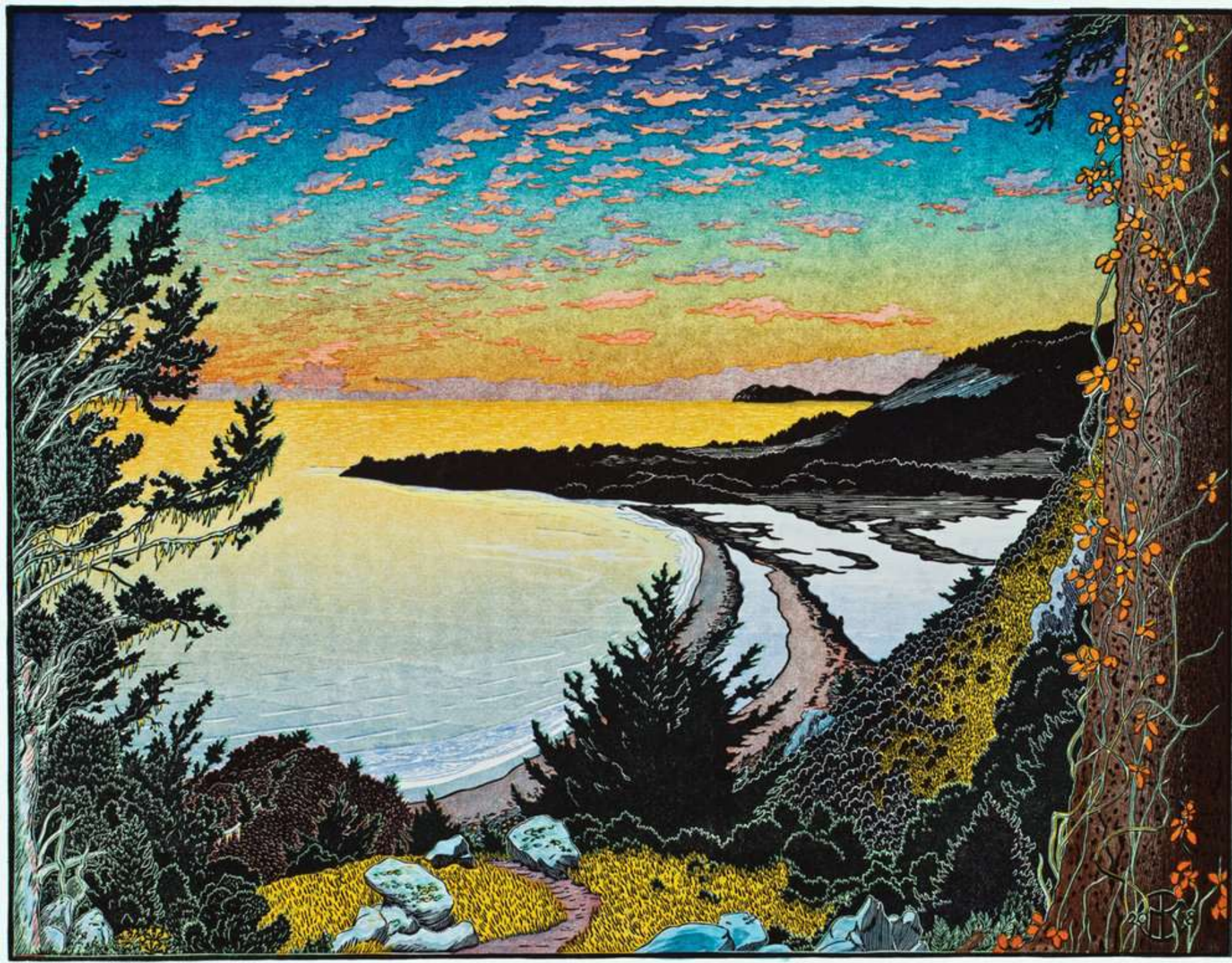
Tom Killian (1953-

Tom Killion is an American artist, author, African historian and educator. He is internationally known for printmaking linocut, woodcut and letterpress techniques. The subject matter of his artwork is often the landscapes of Northern California.

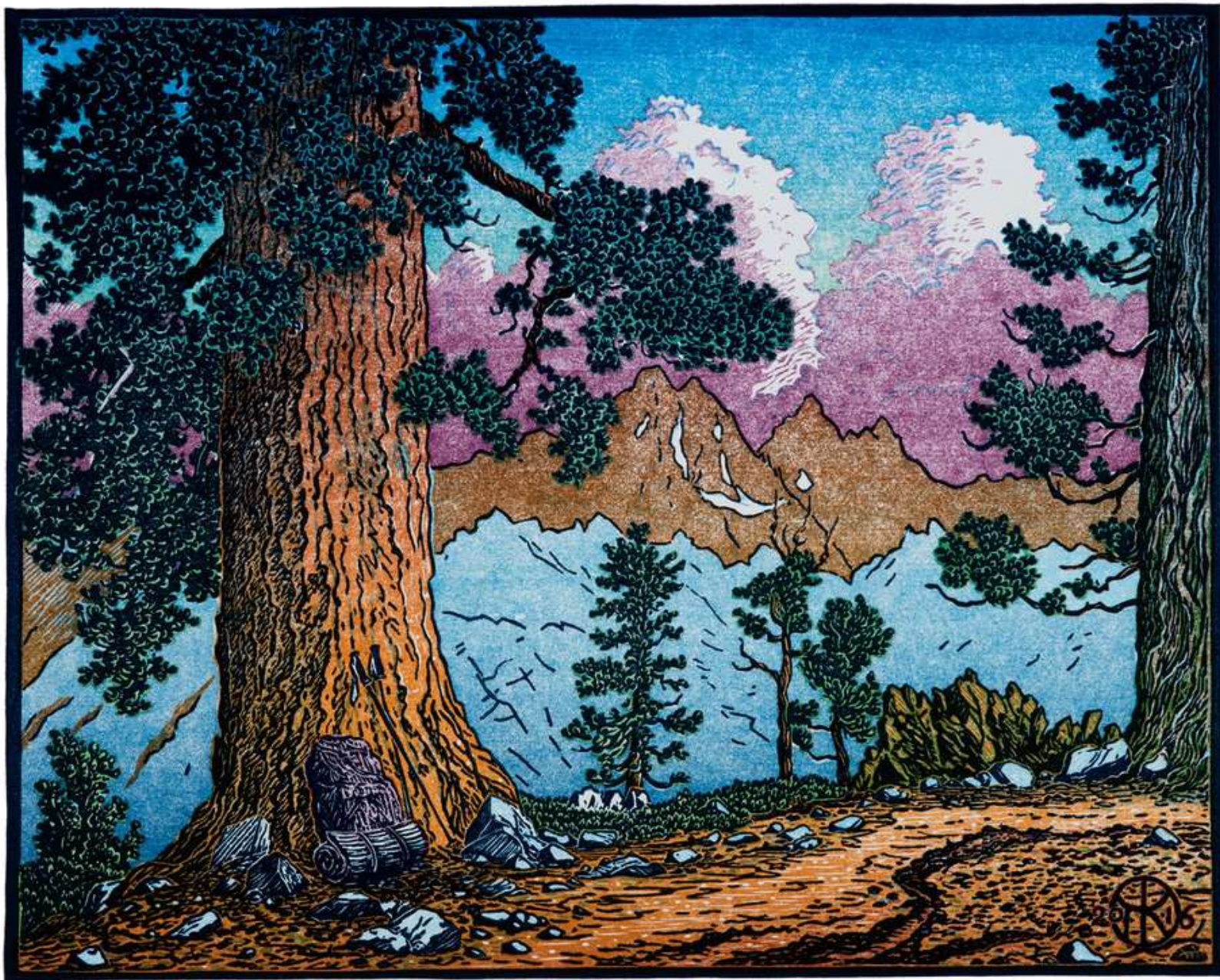
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEsmDXOW1Gk>





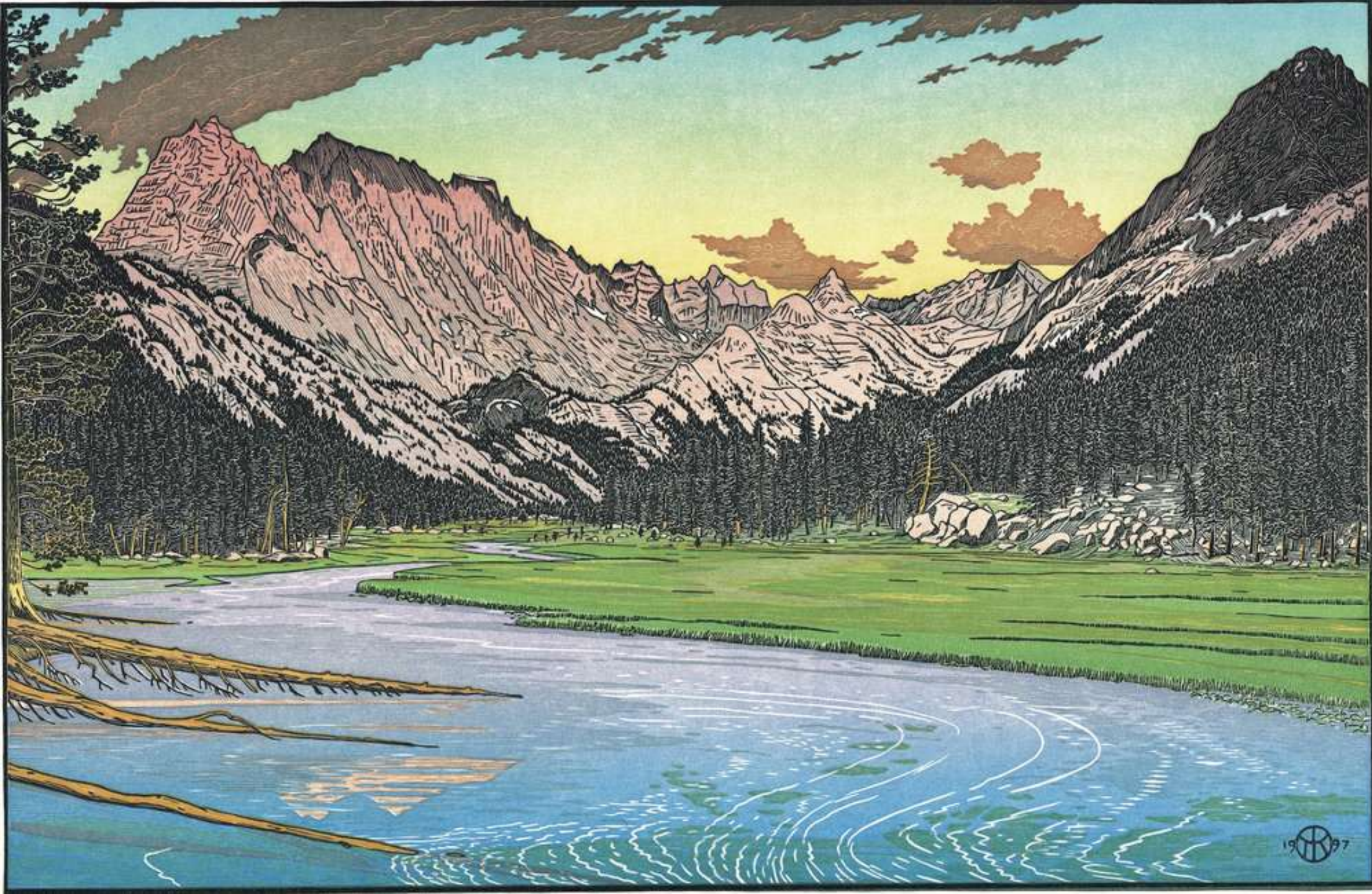






Trail to Iron Mt. (Ritter Range)

[Signature] 1/175











Paul Binnie (1967-

Paul Binnie is a Scottish artist working in the Japanese tradition of woodblock printing. His work is reflective of the shin-hanga artists of the early to mid-20th century, employing subjects such as landscapes, tattoos, and bijin.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UH9etuf3WVA>





1940

Little Black & White Cat

Paul Brown

東錦美人合



朝に涙

157/100

川口武

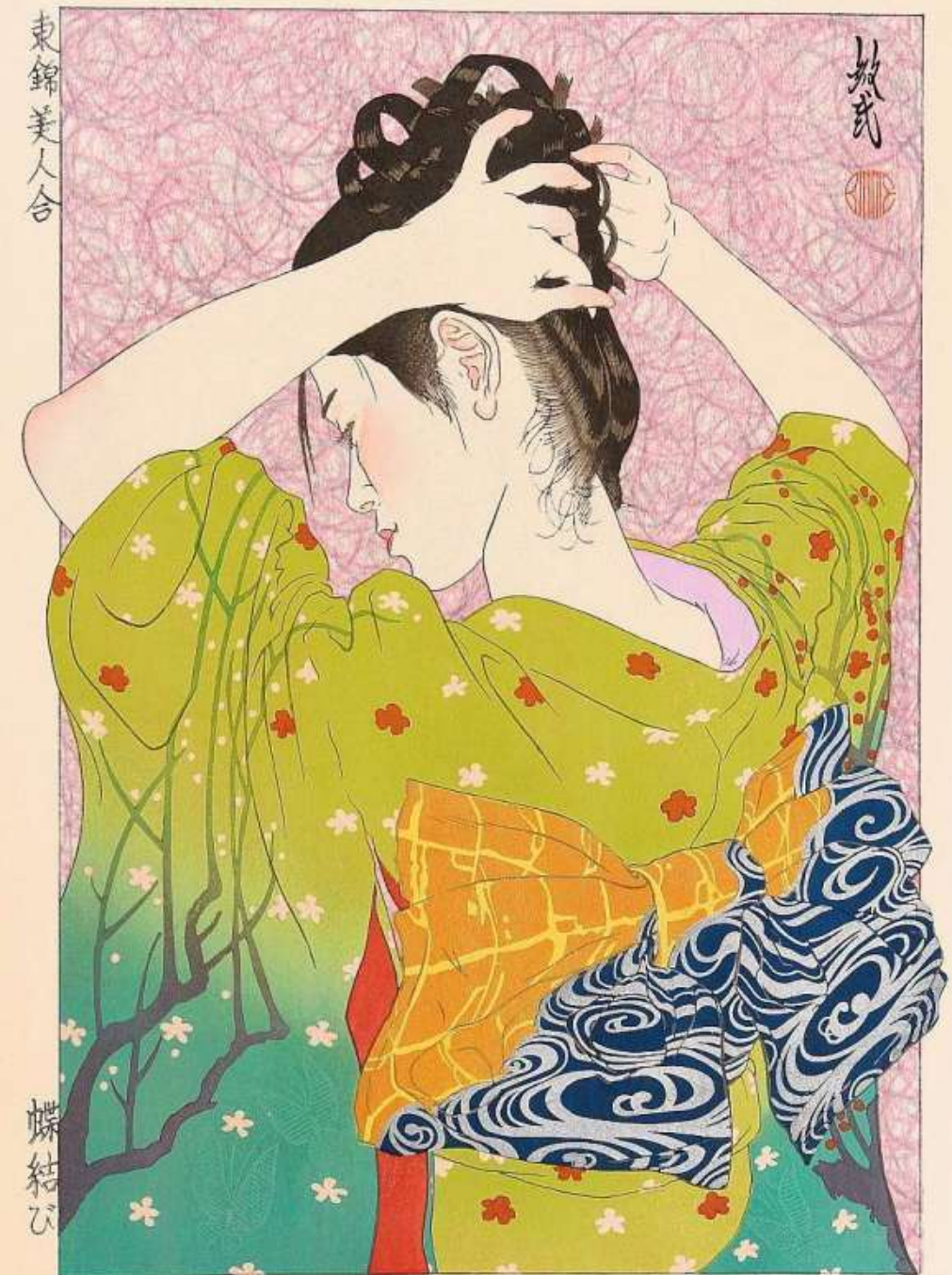


留置十番

新

東錦美人合

数武



蝶結び

河口湖の富士

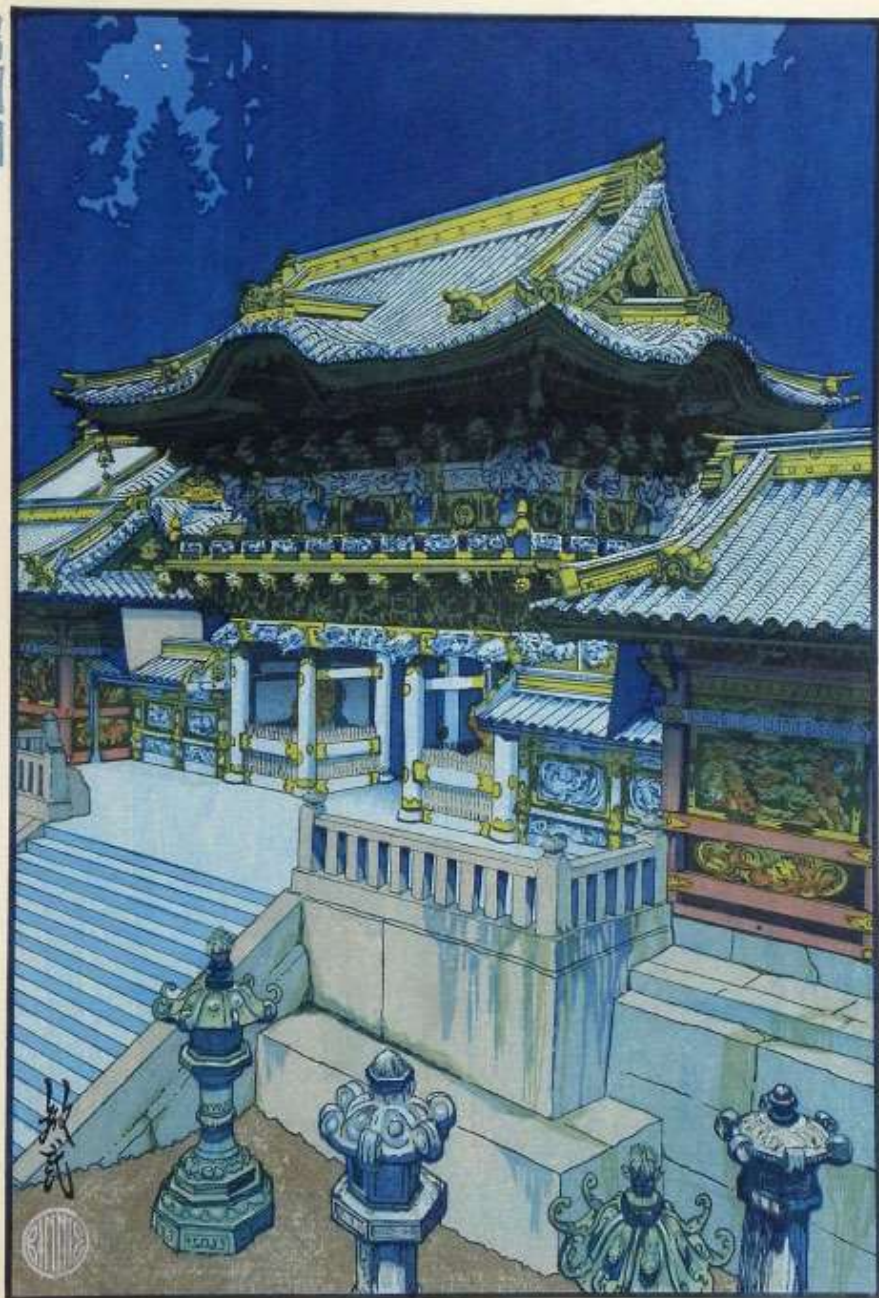
赤富士



数武



陽明門



城武

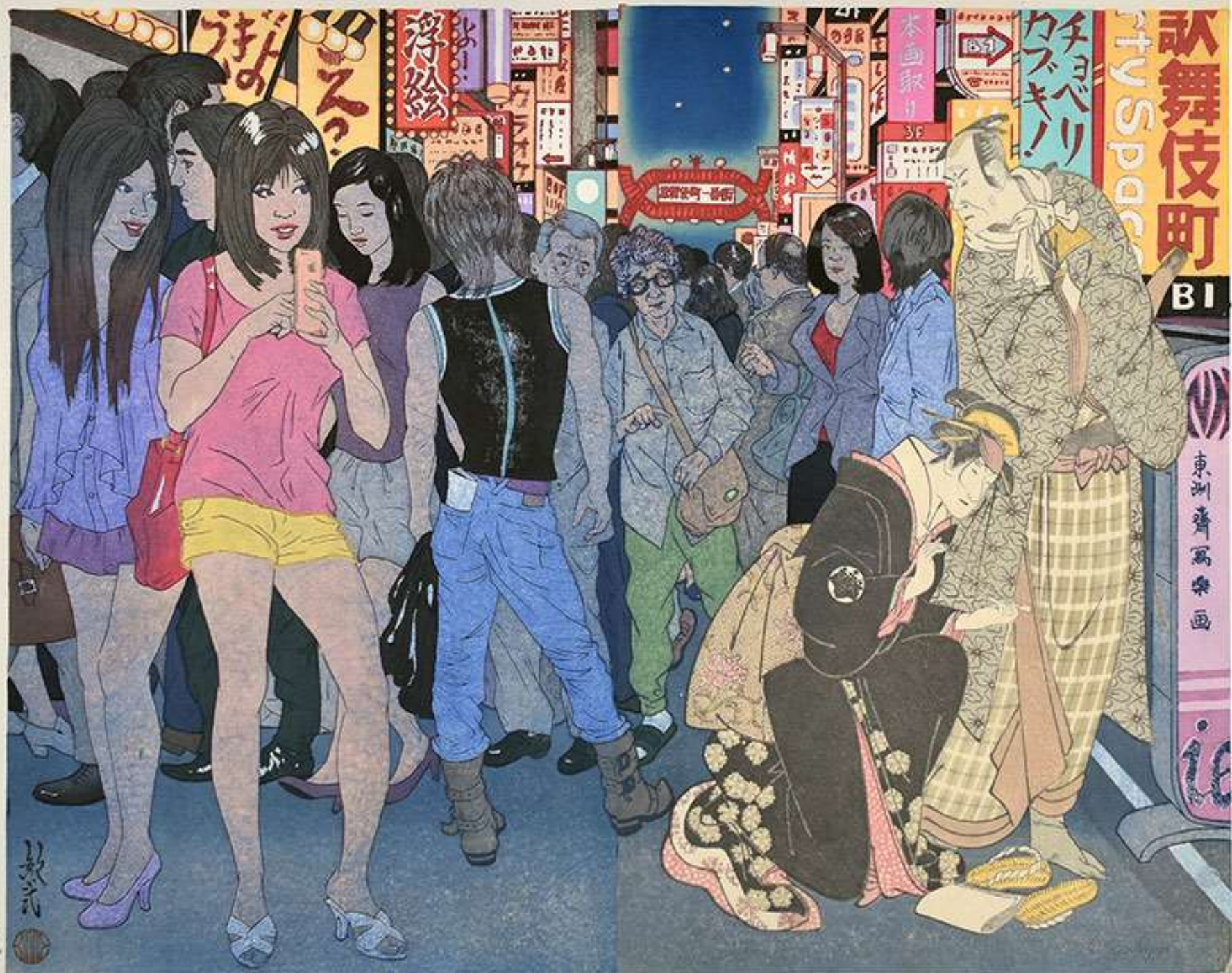


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N E M E S I S

Ami Bui







April Vollmer

April Vollmer is a New York artist who focuses on mokuhanga, Japanese woodcut printmaking. She also makes drawings, collages, books and digital prints. She has lectured widely and her work has been exhibited internationally. She has taught many workshops. Her work has been published in journals including *Science*, *Printmaking Today* and *Contemporary Impressions* and her book: [Japanese Woodblock Print Workshop](#) was released by Watson-Guptill in 2015.

<https://www.aprilvollmer.com/about/>





1895. 5. 20. 18. 19.

April 1895. 18. 19.



1895. 5. 20. 18. 19.

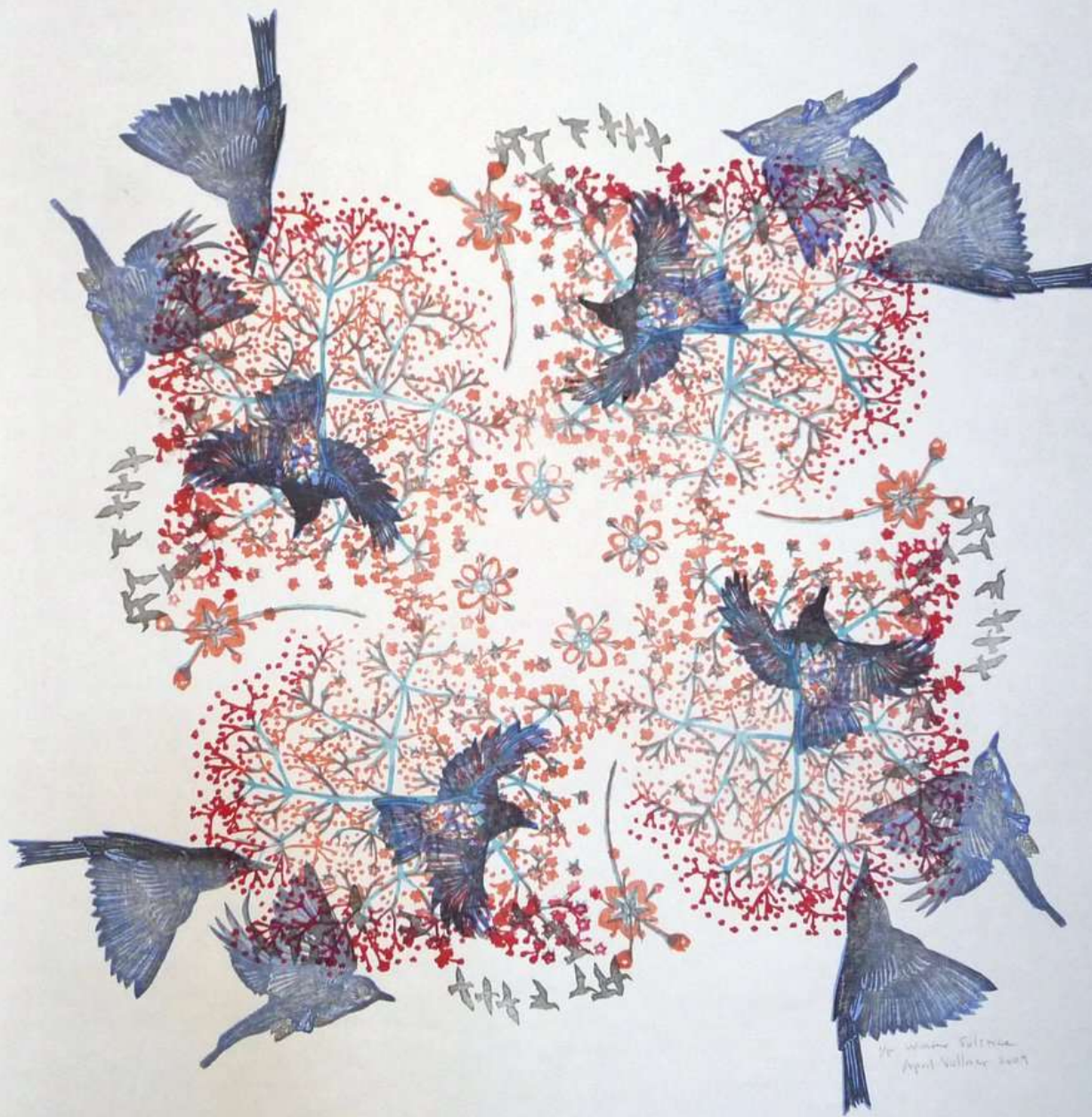




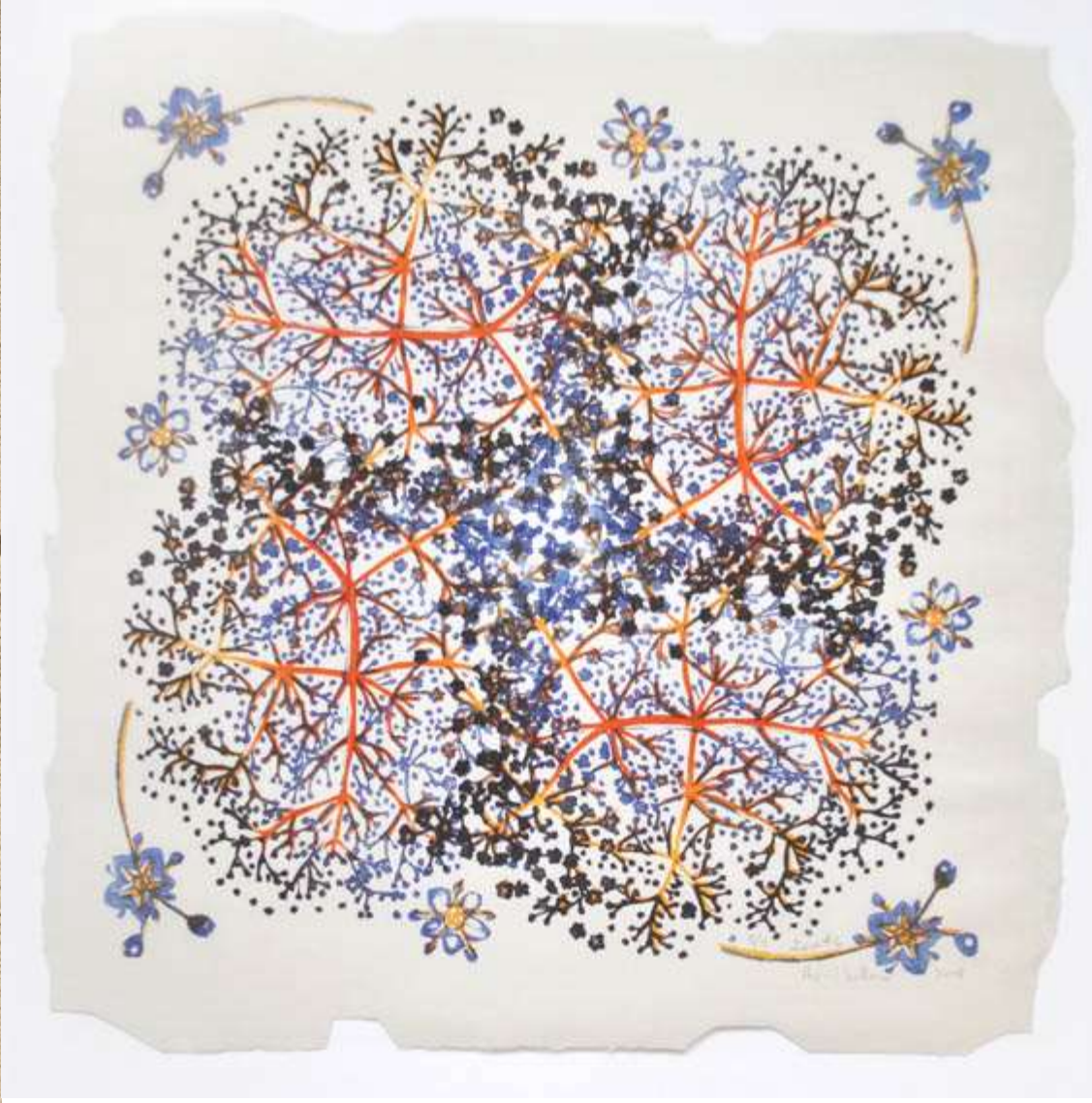
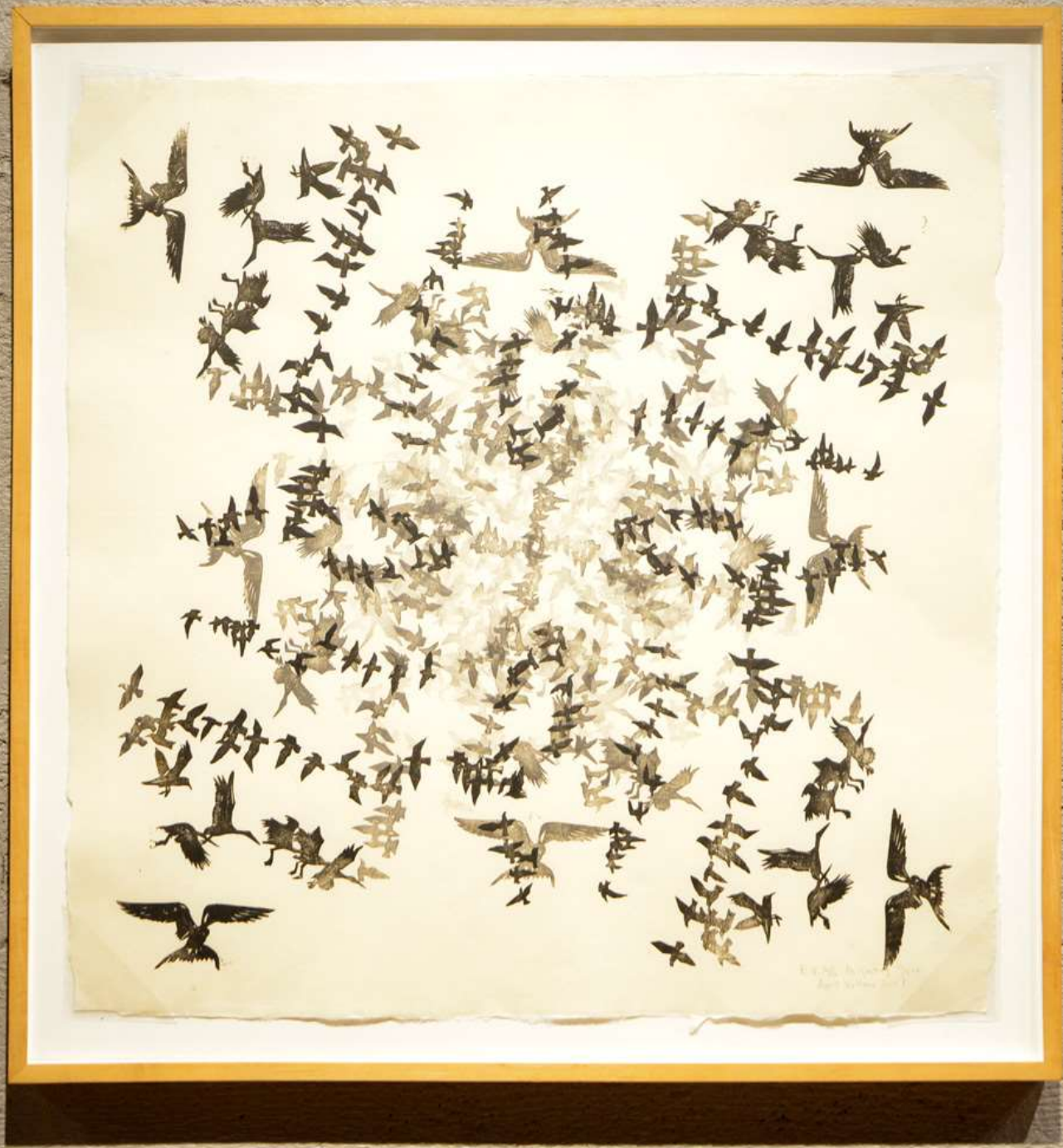
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Transition

April Yellow 75



The Wildlife Collection
April Yellow 2009









Ralph Kiggell

Contemporary woodblock artist Ralph Kiggell draws on his knowledge of traditional woodcut processes and Asian papers to create fine art that melds eastern and western approaches to print, design and craftsmanship. In prints, papercuts, books and murals, his dramatic work – from urban landscapes to plants, cells and organisms – is inspired by the natural world and man's taut relationship with it, and informed by curiosity, investigation and travel.

<https://vimeo.com/227529320>

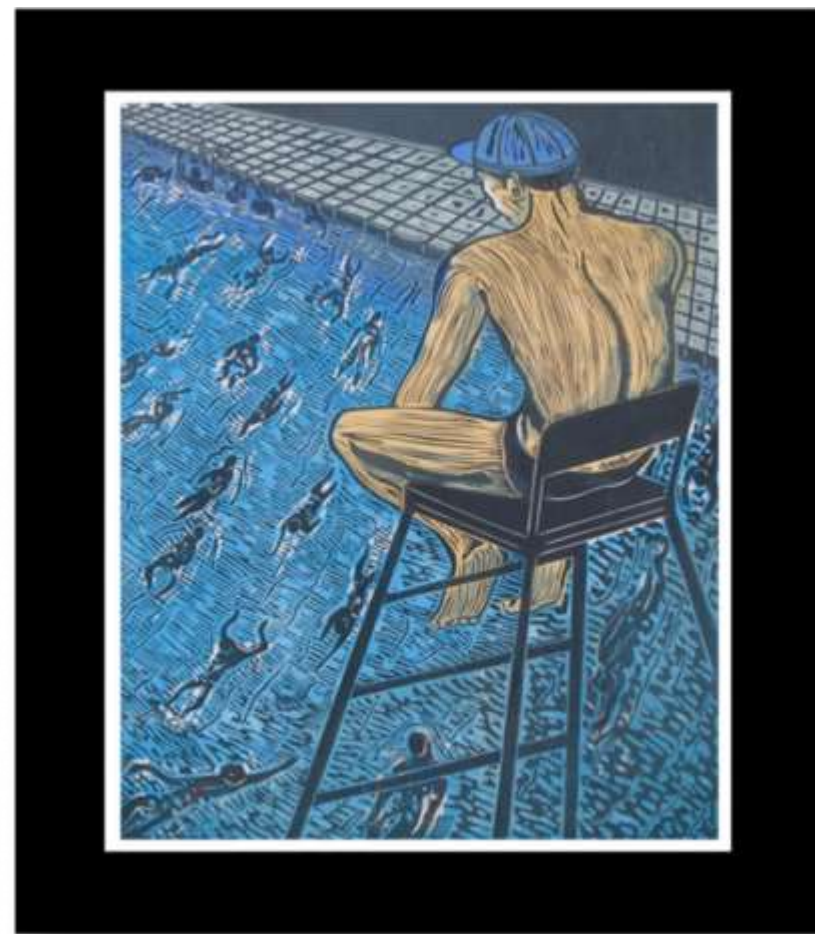
<https://www.ralphkiggell.com/home/>















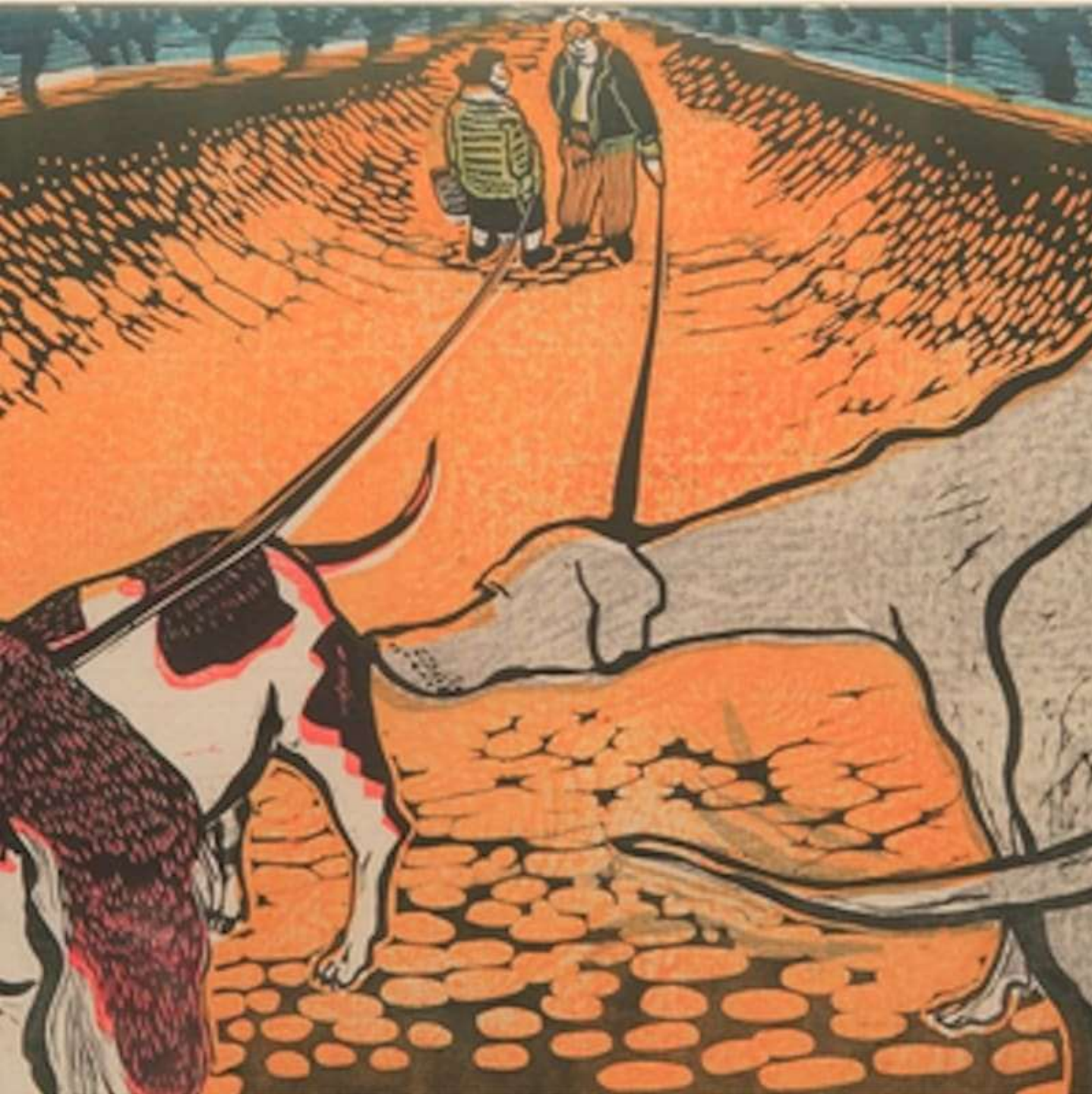


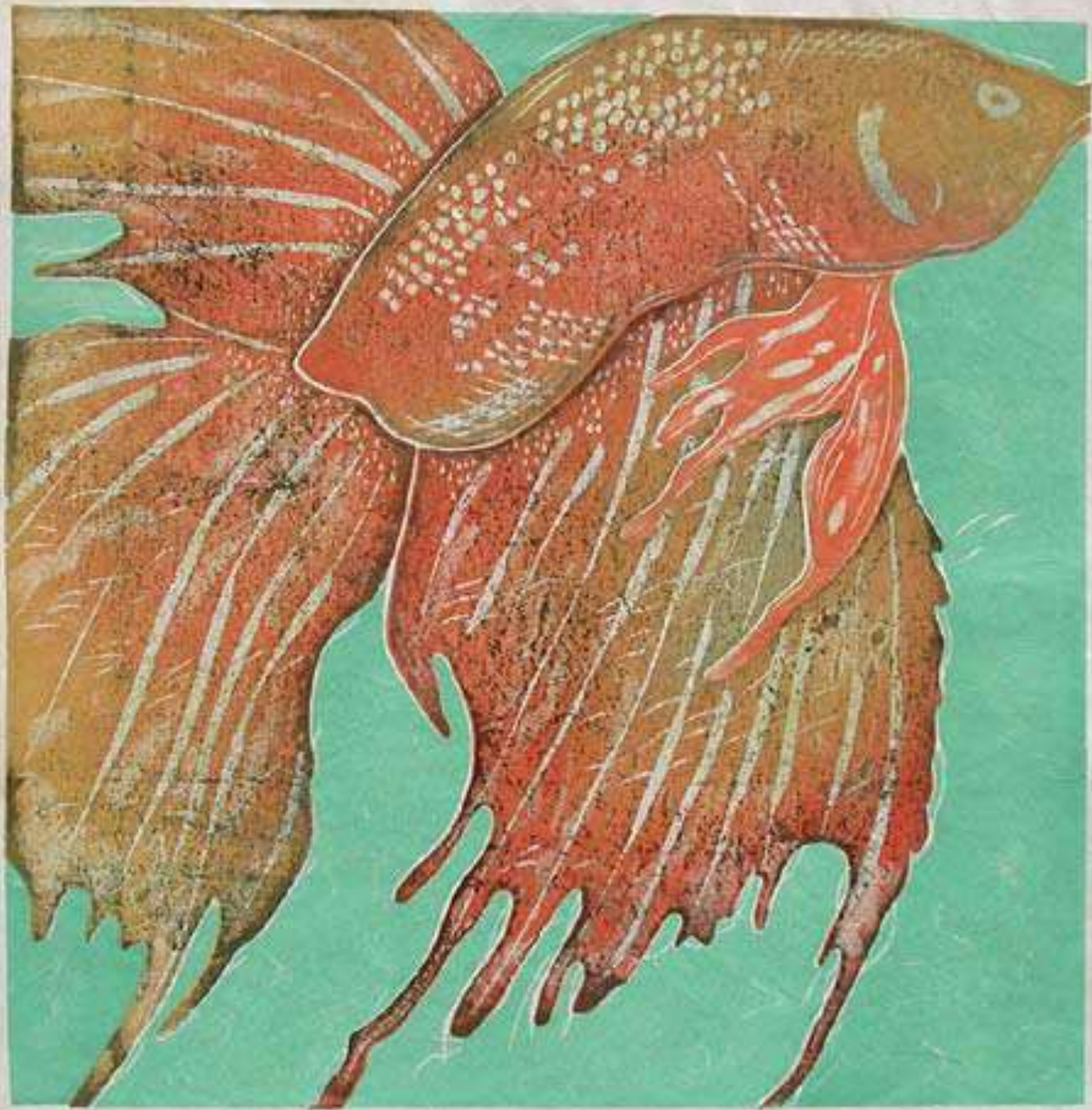
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Sumi Hara

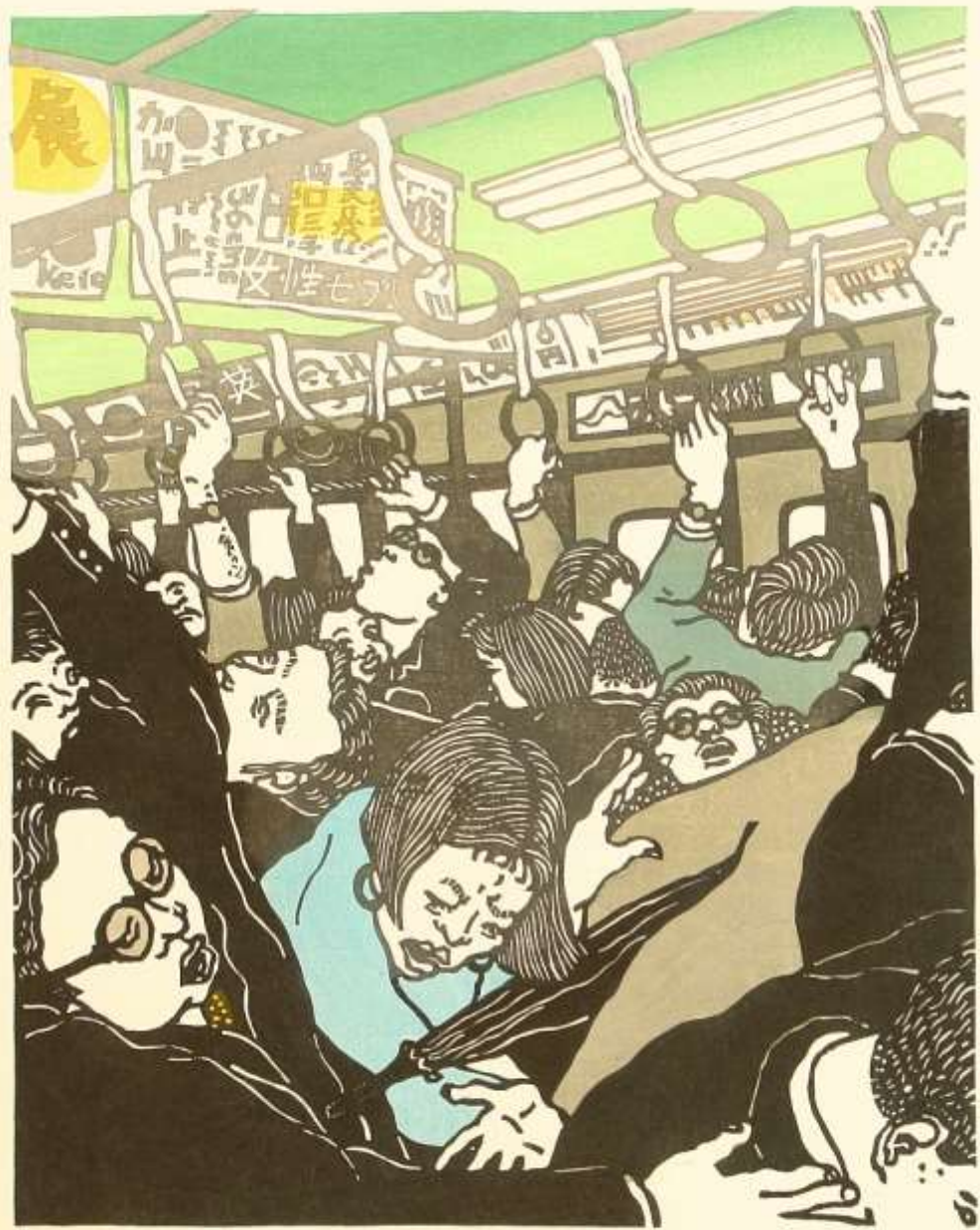
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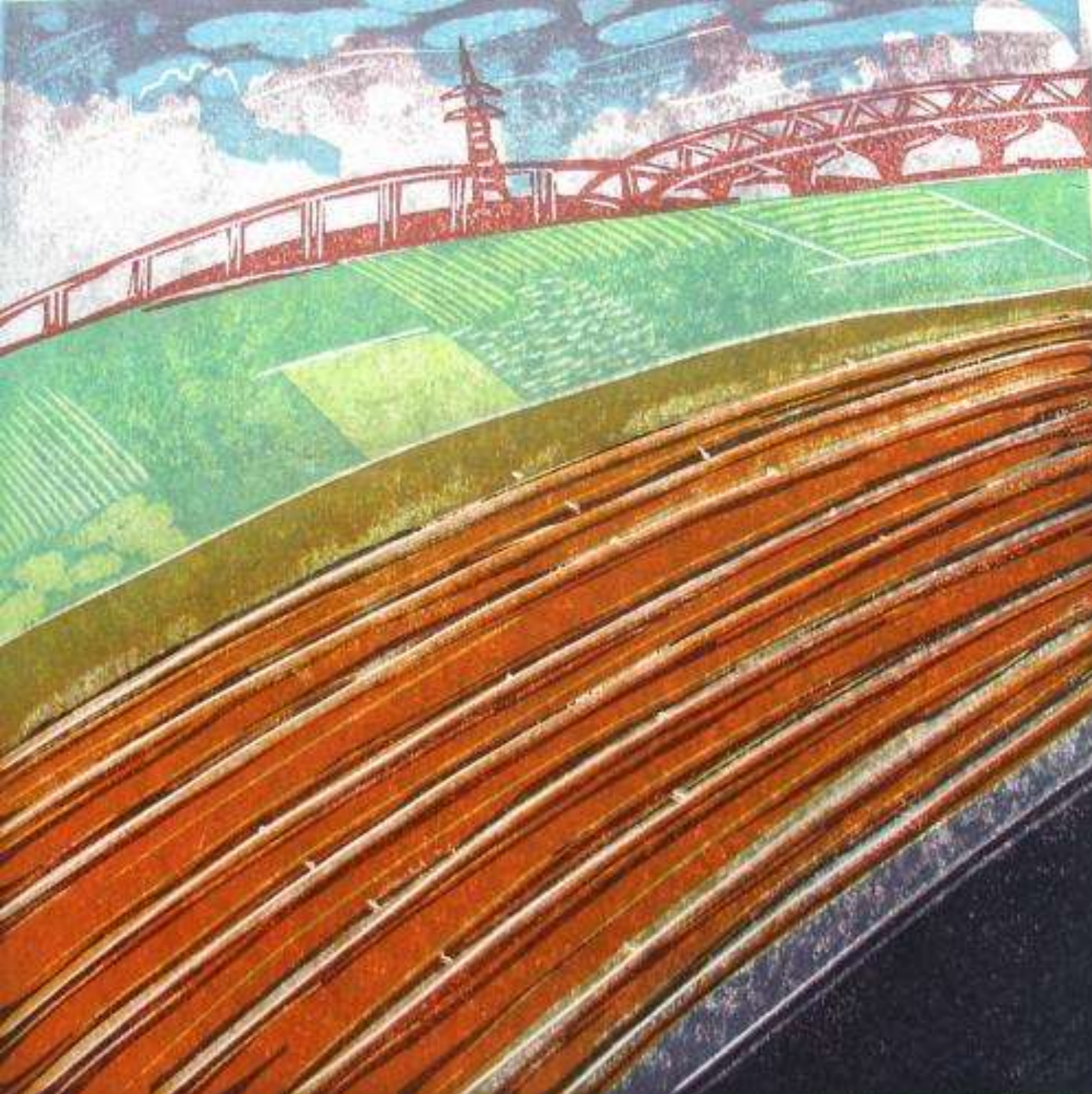


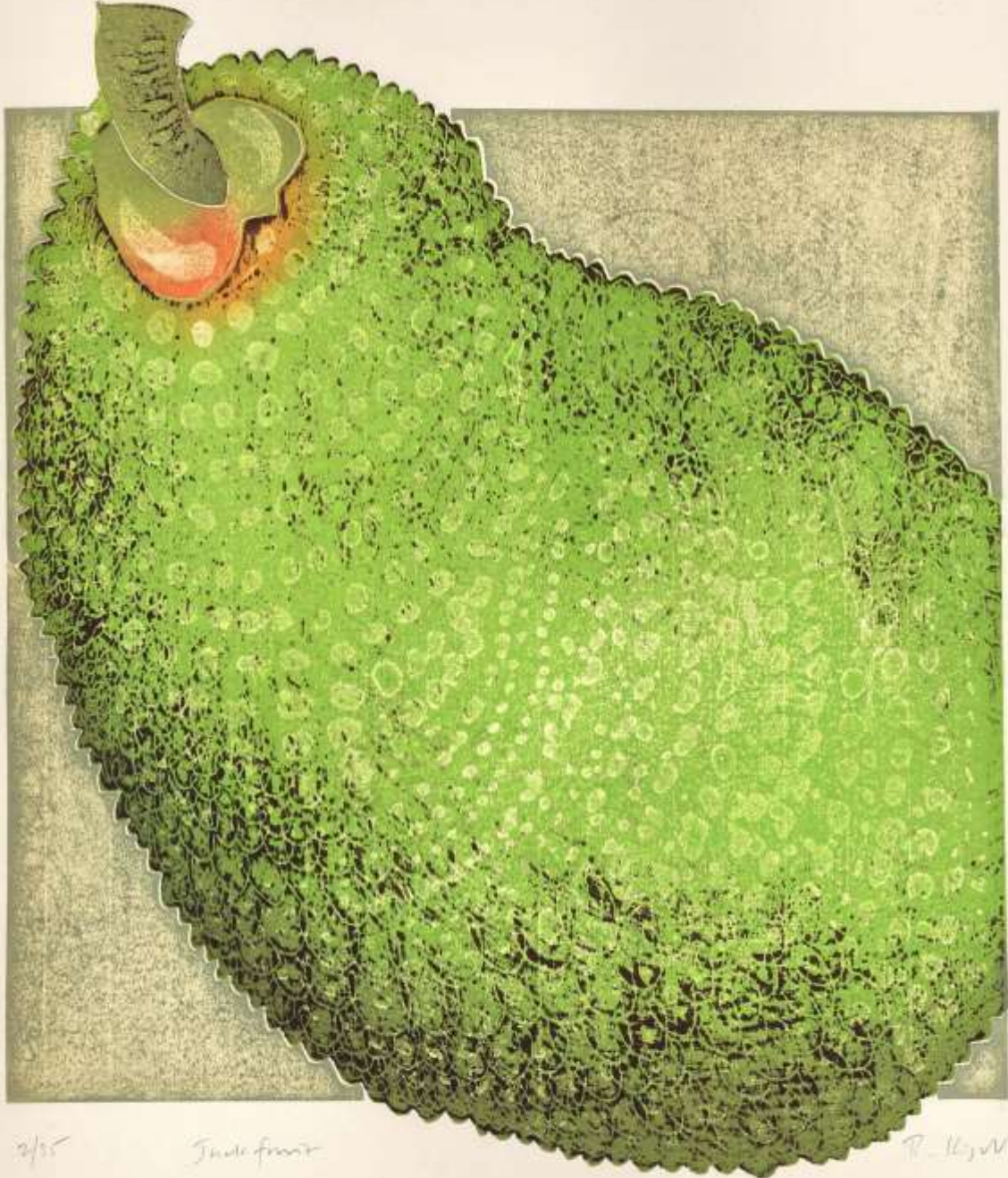
4/15 1965 10/10/65



10/10 1965 10/10/65







2/55

Inside front

R. K. 1955



Gajin Fujita (1972-

Gajin Fujita is a graffiti artist from East Los Angeles. He is a member of LA graffiti crews K2S and KGB.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znsqycSJttI>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FoF6Hp_4phM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyogehV42gE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uZEeRtPPCc>









LAYER

demon











Pictures of the Floating World

Pictures Of The Floating World - Taking its name and narrative inspiration from the 17th century Japanese art form Ukiyo-e is an experimental animation made entirely from woodblock prints, produced using traditional cell animation techniques and custom digital programs.

Each hand drawn frame is digitally processed to reduce unnecessary printing, then laser cut into wooden boards before being painstakingly hand printed and reassembled into a moving image. Common Works' film represents a meeting point between tradition and technology: the fusion of ancient craft with the digital production possibilities of the modern day.

- Printing by Matt Young & Michelle Avison at Slaughterhaus.
Score and Sounds by Cassini Sound.

<https://vimeo.com/168778690> (video)

<https://vimeo.com/169905540> (process)

Assignment Suggestions

- Create a print using sponges, pieces of wood, vegetables or found objects.
- Create a layered image (e.g., take the printed image and use ink and/or print on top of a collage)
- Create a series of images using the same motif (e.g., Mt.Fuji, Haystacks, Marilyn Monroe, your cat, your shoe)
- Recycle an existing artwork
- Use two different artforms in one art piece (e.g., graffiti and woodblock prints)