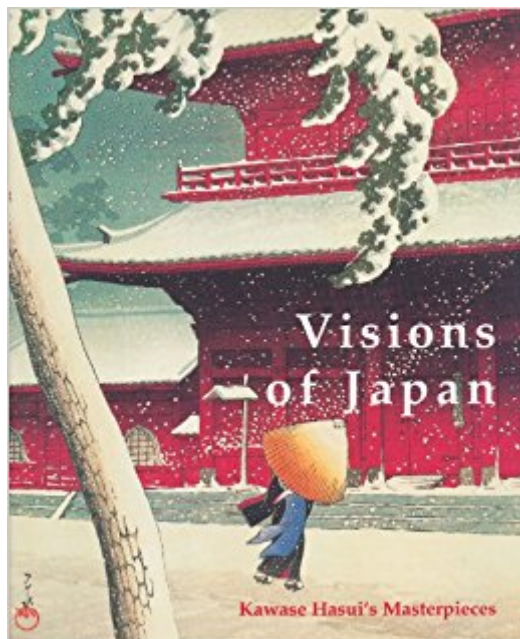


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Visions Of Japan



Synopsis

Following on the success of the catalogue raisonné Kawase Hasui: The Complete Woodblock Prints published by Hotei Publishing in 2003, Visions of Japan: Kawase Hasui's Masterpieces brings together in a single volume one hundred of the artist's most celebrated prints. Fully illustrated, this publication includes annotated descriptions for each work, as well as two essays on Hasui's life and work by Dr. Kendall H. Brown.

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Customer Reviews

"One hundred woodblock prints of the 20th-century Japanese artist Hasui are cataloged in bright colors on large pages roughly 9" x 11." Captions for the hundred are grouped following the prints. With annotations which are comments by Hasui on the particular print or informative remarks by Narazaki Munishige, editor of a book on the artist's prints, the captions are instructive. Instructive too are two introductory essays by Kendall H. Brown. The first is on the Japanese cultural sources of Hasui's prints; the second focuses on Hasui's life and art. The succinct text with the appealing pictures of numerous prints offers an ideal introduction to and sampling of the woodblock prints by this outstanding Japanese artist who is regarded as one of the primary artists of the 20th-century Japanese art movement known as "New prints" (Shin-hanga)." --Midwest Book Review

Following on the success of the catalogue raisonné "Kawase Hasui: The Complete Woodblock Prints" published by Hotei Publishing in 2003, "Visions of Japan: Kawase Hasui's

(TM)s Masterpieces" brings together in a single volume one hundred of the artista (TM)s most celebrated prints. Fully illustrated, this publication includes annotated descriptions for each work, as well as two essays on Hasuia (TM)s life and work by Dr. Kendall H. Brown. Kawase Hasui (1883-1957) is considered the foremost Japanese landscape print artist of the 20th century, and he is most closely associated with the pioneering Shin-hanga ('New Prints') publisher Watanabe ShAzaburA (1885-1962). Hasuia (TM)s work became hugely popular, not only in his native Japan but also in the West, especially in the United States. His valuable contribution to the woodblock print medium was acknowledged in 1956, a year before his death, when he was honoured with the distinction of a ~Living National Treasurea (TM).

Hasui is one of art's most special, precious jewels, which this lovely volume faithfully conveys. What more can possibly be said about Kawase Hasui? I have a little something to put his achievement in perspective. A long time ago, the Classical Chinese playwright, Guan Hanqing, living in the Yuan dynasty, wrote a play called "The Riverside Pavilion." In it, one of the characters quotes a verse (the original source of which is unknown to me); she says:"A lonely village in the rain,A mountain in the snow,Although they seem such simple thingsAre hard to paint, you know."It's still true today. I have no idea if Kawase Hasui may have read this play in his early years (perhaps doubtful but who would really know), yet he completely fulfills this challenge as no other artist ever has. That it happens in the difficult medium of the Japanese woodcut is all the more remarkable. To see the village, to see the rain, to see the mountain, to see the snow, to see the breathtaking prints in this book is an experience that lasts a lifetime. It is truly filled with visions of Japan.

Kawase is our favorite of the Japanese wood block artists, and this compilation is excellent. Not the Edo-jidai stuff, but from a period where Western ideas of perspective influenced Japanese traditional arts.

Kawase-sensei's beautiful woodblock prints capture the transition of Japan in the early 20th century from a traditional to Westernized society. This book is more accessible than the huge coffe-table edition of all of his work, and much less expensive. The historical and biographical essay is very helpful for providing context.

This book has many reproductions of this wonderful artist. I have loved his work for decades after I first saw one of his paintings on a card. I mostly love the Temples and the snow scenes, but he was

so good at making woodblocks of nature. It was interesting to know more about him and his life and to see pictures.

The aesthetics of Shin-Hanga and in particular Hasui's prints appeal to me greatly and this collection is just stunning. I have also enjoyed the sections that tell his story and his comments about his own work. Will treasure this one!

Absolutely superb book.

When I think about a master of quality in Japanese printmaking a few artists immediately come to mind: Hiroshi Yoshida, Paul Jacoulet, and Kawase Hasui. This little paperback book is jam packed full of color woodblock prints,...page after page of an artists masterful works. If you are not fond of landscapes this is not for you, but if you enjoy Japanese printmaking, this book is an absolute must. The simple compositions, the colorful gradations, and the mastery in image, carving and printmaking comes through on every page. GET IT NOW!!!

Decent sized photos and good quality prints, just that for the price of \$42 I would prefer to have a hard cover.

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