

SPOTLIGHT: Helen Hyde
Title of Piece: Blossom Time in Tokyo



El Presenter: Linda Schaefer

Date: May 3, 2011

Title of Piece: Blossom Time in Tokyo

Year created: 1914

Artist: Helen Hyde (1868 -1919)

Five essential aspects about this artist:

1. One of the first Western artists to study Japanese printmaking in Japan.
2. While In Japan she placed herself under the instruction of an expert in pen and ink; learned every aspect of woodblock printmaking so that she could do it herself, or supervise her workers
3. Was born to affluence but wanted to be able to support herself by her work; ultimately did so very successfully; was always greatly supported by female kind and friends.
4. Was interested in the human side above all; shows in the tenderness among her women and children subjects.

5. One of four Western women artists fascinated by Asian culture between 1900 and 1940; was featured in the Visions of the Orient exhibition at JSMA in April 2012. Others were Bertha Lum, Elizabeth Keith, Lilian Miller

Possible questions to use when discussing this piece with museum visitors: VTS

1. What is going on in this picture?
2. What do you notice about the characters that you see? What are they doing?
3. What colors do you notice in this picture? What feelings do those colors give to the picture?
4. What kinds of sounds might you hear if you were where these people are?
5. Smells? What food might they be having?

Artist's Timeline

1868 - Born in Lima, New York on April 6

1868 - Grew up in the Bay Area; began to study art at age 12

1886 - Graduated from Wellesley School for Girls and entered the California School of Design

1888 to 1894 - Studied in Berlin and Paris; was encouraged to concentrate on Japanese themes

1894 - Returned to San Francisco

1895 - Bought a printing press and began experimenting with etchings

1899 - To Japan; began producing colored etchings and woodcuts in Tokyo

1901 to 1913 - Traveled widely from her home in Tokyo to China, India and Mexico

1914 - Returned permanently to the US

1916 - Worked in the Carolinas

1919 - Died of cancer in Pasadena

1920 - A memorial exhibition of her works held at the Art Institute of Chicago

Tour Type: People, Portraits & Places, Learning to Look, Explore Asia

Additional Notes and Sources:

JSMA Collection:

<https://jsmacollection.uoregon.edu/mwebcgi/mweb?request=record;id=1679;type=101>