

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Come back and visit the museum again!  
Use the Parent Pass to bring back  
two adults for FREE!**

## Honolulu Museum of Art

**900 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814**



# Honolulu Museum of Art

## *Kamishibai: Japanese Storytelling*

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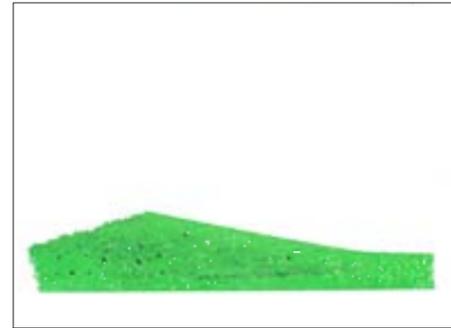
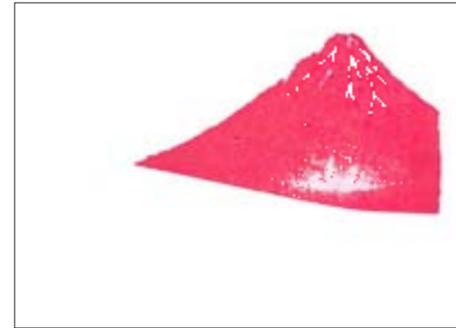
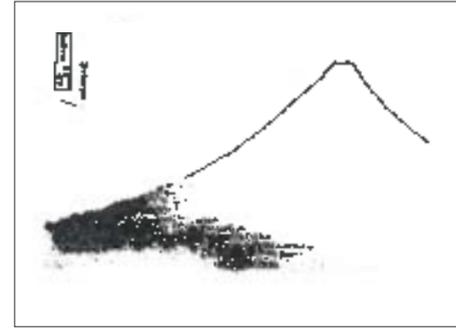
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Student Tour Booklet

# Honolulu Museum of Art

Today you visited the museum and saw Japanese art and heard a traditional *Kamishibai* story. This booklet reviews some of the things you saw on your tour so you can share with your family.

*Kamishibai* or “paper theater” began in Japan between the 9th and 10th centuries. Priests used pictures to teach religious stories. In time, the *kamishibai* became a major form of entertainment where professional storytellers could make a living selling candy, carrying their picture stories from town to town on a bicycle. *Kamishibai* was so popular, that when television was first introduced in Japan, it was called “*electric kamishibai!*”



To better understand the printing process, try your hand at making a print using rubber stamps. Your simple print of Mount Fuji will use four carved rubber blocks, one for each color: the black “key block”, red, blue and green.

- 1) Start by inking the black “key block.” Press firmly to load enough ink to the entire block.
- 2) Place the block within the blank rectangle on the previous page.
- 3) Press firmly for several seconds.
- 4) Repeat steps 1-2-3 with each color stamp. As you add each color, be sure you center the block within the lines.

By trying to print this image, you will appreciate the ability of these Japanese woodblock artists. They were very skilled! You will find it difficult to keep the colors even and straight within the lines. That is okay – it is only your first print!

# Woodblock printing



**Katsushika Hokusai** (1760-1849); *Mount Fuji in Clear Weather (Red Fuji)*, from the series, *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*; Japan, Edo period, ca. 1830-34, Color woodblock print, Gift of James A. Michener, 1991, (15583)

Traditional Japanese woodblock prints use a different carved block for each color. The artist’s original black ink drawing is pasted face down onto a smooth block of cherry wood. A block carver cuts away all the white paper to leave raised lines of wood wherever there are black lines. After printing this “key block” by applying ink to the lines and pressing a paper firmly on top of the block to absorb the ink, other color blocks are cut to fit within the lines.



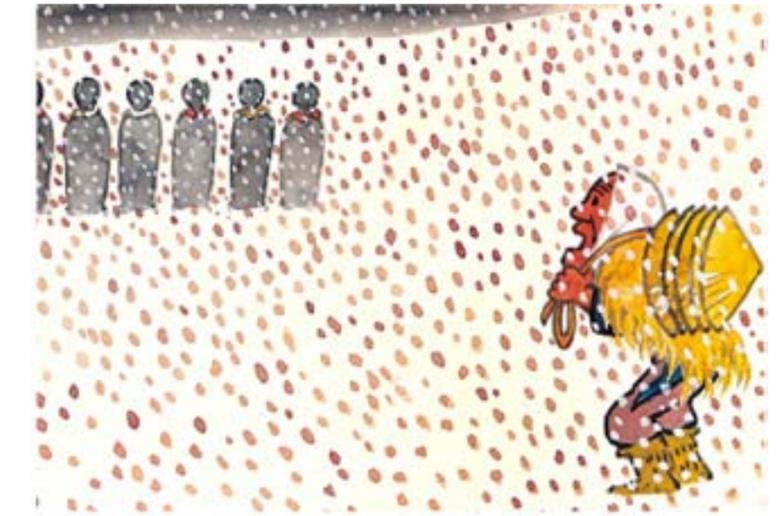
# Kamishibai

The *Kamishibai* man rode his bike into town to sell candy to children. To announce his arrival and to gather as many children as possible, he called them by banging together a *hyoshigi*, two wooden sticks tied together with a string. Before he sold them the candy, he would tell exciting stories through a series of pictures displayed on the back of his bicycle.

In some neighborhoods today in Hawai‘i, an ice cream truck plays fun music on a loudspeaker to call the children. *Too bad the ice cream man doesn’t tell stories too!*

*Have you heard the ice cream truck in your neighborhood?*

*What was the name of the story you heard at the museum?*



## Jizo



Japanese sculptures show Jizo as a monk with a kind face, a shaved head, and wearing a simple length of cloth wrapped around his body. Jizo is loved by all since he helps travelers, and women and children who are in need. In one hand he holds a staff with six rings. He shakes the staff as he walks to let people know he is coming. In his other hand, he holds a wish-granting jewel to help make your wishes come true.

*What wish would you ask from Jizo?*

## Chanoyu or the Japanese art of tea



The Japanese art of tea involves a ritual to prepare and serve tea for guests. The ceremony is carried out in precise, slow-paced movements. This way the guest enjoys the tea and sweets and has time to quietly admire the beautiful objects used in the ceremony. The bowls, plates, tea holders, paintings and vases are treasures of the owner. It is polite to admire and ask questions about each object.

The ceremony often takes place in a very small humble tea house where the guest and host sit on *tatami* (a thickly woven dried grass mat). Within the house is a small alcove called a *tokonoma* with one ink painting on the wall and a vase with a simple seasonal flower arrangement.

The ceremony is based on the values of:

**Harmony** (*Wa*): harmony between guests, hosts, nature, and setting

**Respect** (*Kei*): sincerity toward another, regardless of rank or status

**Purity** (*Sei*): to be of pure heart and mind

**Tranquility** (*Jaku*): inner peace that results from participating in this ritual

*Did you feel these values during your pretend tea ceremony?*

*Does your family have a special treat they like to share with guests?*