



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

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THE ART GALLERY AT USJ PRESENTS
SHIN-HANGA LANDSCAPES: 20TH-CENTURY JAPANESE PRINTS



Kawase Hasui (1883-1957). *Zensetsû Temple, Sanshû (Sanshû Zensetsûji)*, 1937 from the series *Collection of Scenic Views of Japan II, Kansai Edition (Nihon fukei shu II Kansai hen)*. Woodblock printed in color. Gift of Judith and Norman Zlotsky, 2015.1.4.

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (May 11, 2015) – The Art Gallery at University of Saint Joseph will open *Shin Hanga Landscapes: 20th Century Japanese Prints* with a reception on Friday, June 12, 2015 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. The reception, which is free and open to the public, will be held in advance of West Hartford’s Japan Summer Festival (Blueback Square, Saturday, June 13, 11:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.). The exhibition will remain on view through September 6, 2015 in the Art gallery, located in the Bruyette Athenaeum on the University’s main campus at 1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford.

The Japanese art movement known as *shin hanga* (“new prints”) flourished in the first half of the 20th century. Coined by print publisher Watanabe Shōzaburō (1885-1962), the term *shin hanga* referred to modern color woodblock prints produced in the traditional collaborative system

involving print designer, carver, printer, and publisher. Although *shin hanga* prints addressed the same subject matter as 19th century Japanese prints — including landscapes, beautiful women, and kabuki actors — they reflect Japan’s assimilation of Western art movements, as well as an interest in attracting a Western audience. Just as 19th century Japanese woodblock prints had influenced the course of European art, increasing internationalization led 20th century Japanese printmakers to adopt certain approaches pioneered by European artists. In *shin hanga* prints this resulted in deep perspective, a focus on naturalistic light and three-dimensional form, and subtle coloring that eschewed the use of black outlines.

The landscapes that constitute the majority of *shin hanga* prints depicted views showing little evidence of the country’s modernization and therefore held considerable appeal to an audience seeking a romantic or nostalgic image of Japan. Examples in this exhibition include works by some of the most renowned artists working in the genre, foremost among them Kawase Hasui (1883-1957) and Yoshida Hiroshi (1876-1950).

This exhibition features recent gifts from Judith and Norman Zlotsky as well as prints donated by John Crockett. It has been scheduled in conjunction with West Hartford’s Japan Summer Festival (Saturday, June 13).

The Art Gallery, University of Saint Joseph is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Thursday: 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.; closed Monday. Admission is free. For more information, visit www.usj.edu/artgallery.

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The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master’s and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University’s two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 25 majors and seven pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at www.usj.edu.

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