



News Release

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*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

Contact: Julie Thomson, Outreach Coordinator
517/353-9834; thomso16@msu.edu

EXHIBITION: *Beautiful Women and the Men who Played Them: Prints of the Kabuki Theater*

DATES: November 6- December 17, 2004

TALK: Gallery Talk by Joanna Hecker, Wednesday, November 10, noon

LOCATION: Works On Paper Gallery, Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University

Beautiful Women and the Men who Played Them: Prints of the Kabuki Theater

A new exhibit, *Beautiful Women and the Men who Played Them: Prints of the Kabuki Theater*, will be on view in Kresge Art Museum's Works on Paper Gallery, November 6 through December 17, 2004. This exhibit includes over 25 19th century Japanese prints featuring Kabuki actors.

These *ukiyo-e* or "pictures of the floating world" by artists such as Kunisada, Utamaro, Hiroshige and Kuniyoshi, were very popular. They helped to develop a cult of the most famous actors of the day similar to the pop-culture clout of modern movie, sports and rock stars. The storylines of Kabuki plays reflected morals imposed upon the citizens by their repressive government but also provided a way to circumvent censorship. Spectacles of sex and violence were typical with a moral lesson at the end.

KAM's Japanese prints were reviewed and assessed last year with grant support from the Carpenter Foundation. This show, curated by Joanna Hecker from the collection, presents new information, identifications of the actors, and revised attributions.

An preview of a few prints in the exhibit will be available shortly on the Current Exhibitions page of the museum's website, www.artmuseum.msu.edu

Admission is free to Kresge Art Museum and many of its public programs. The museum is open Monday – Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Thursday until 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday noon – 5 p.m. Kresge Art Museum is located on the campus of Michigan State University, in East Lansing, Mich. For additional information please call 517/355-7631 or visit www.artmuseum.msu.edu

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